

# European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)

Innovating & Learning Together

**Draft Strategy 2026 - 2029**

March 2025



## The European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)

The European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) is a network of service providers to people with disabilities committed to high quality service delivery.

### Our Purpose & Mission

A society where every person can co-create quality services that bring about equal opportunities for all, social inclusion and quality of life.

To build the capacity of our members to provide sustainable, high quality services in a competitive environment through mutual learning and training.

### Our field of work: Disability & Rehabilitation

EPR upholds the UNCRPD understanding of **disability**, that it is “an evolving concept”, that “Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”, and that “impairment is a valued aspect of human diversity”. EPR considers that disability is not an individual’s intrinsic feature but a result of that individual’s interaction in an environment, as noted in the International Classification of Functioning.

### Rehabilitation

EPR has a broad and holistic understanding of the meaning of **rehabilitation** and takes this into account in the activities of the network.

For EPR, rehabilitation includes all activities working with individuals with a disability and others in vulnerable situations to empower them and enable them to access their rights, be included in all aspects of life and have the best quality of life as possible. It encompasses all services that work to achieve this and throughout a person’s life.

EPR considers that rehabilitation services include prevention and early intervention, medical rehabilitation; social care, support and housing and social rehabilitation; vocational rehabilitation, vocational education and training; employment support.

### We are our Members

EPR members are private not-for-profit organisations or public organisations that deliver services to people with disabilities and other disadvantages or that support organisations that deliver such services, from any European country. EPR members are known for providing high quality services, engage in actions for continuous development, improvement and innovation, have a high level of expertise in relevant fields for the other EPR members, are committed to the quality principles[1] underpinning the EQUASS system and to the implementation of the UNCRPD, as well as having the capacity to engage in a minimum of EPR activities. Permanent Observer members may be from outside Europe or be active in the field of disability but that are not service provider-related organisations.

# EPR Strategy 2026 – 2029

## Strategic priority 1: EPR enables Innovation in Service Provision

We do that through mutual learning, training, projects, resource development and networking opportunities. Activities provide access to key expertise and knowledge, and aim to bring positive change and lasting impact for EPR members' regular activities.

- **Strategic objective 1.1.:** Increase the number, quality and participation in opportunities of mutual learning, training, and networking for EPR members
- **Strategic objective 1.2.:** Develop structured peer learning programs to ensure continuous knowledge exchange.
- **Strategic objective 1.3.:** Build the capacity of EPR members to apply for and manage projects and improve sharing of results from projects with EPR members involved.

## Strategic priority 2: EPR is a consistently growing, stable and sustainable network

We do that by working towards having a more geographically representative membership in the EU and by creating partnerships.

Membership refers to EPR members who pay an annual fee for a package of services.

Partnerships refer to EPR collaboration with other organisations and networks for a specific purpose. EPR might engage in partnerships with enterprises or companies that can deliver trainings, information or any other action esteemed of added value to the EPR mission or services to members.

- **Strategic objective 2.1.:** Grow its active membership to be more representative of EU Member States while keeping a sustainable network.
- **Strategic objective 2.2.:** Seek new strategic partnerships in a broad range of stakeholder groups

## Strategic priority 3: EPR promotes technology as an enabler of effective and efficient services that ensure inclusion, independent living, and rehabilitation

We do that by promoting the adoption and use of new technologies, including assistive technologies, digital tools and artificial intelligence, as an enabler for services to be more effective and efficient. New technologies are used in ways that enhance their availability and accessibility, and the inclusion and representation of service users/people with disabilities.

EPR contributes by operating innovative products, (such as QIAT), and developing new products in collaborative projects.

- **Strategic objective 3.1.:** Spread the culture of impact assessment<sup>1</sup> on new technology, and share relevant practices

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<sup>1</sup> "Impact assessment" is a systematic approach to evaluate the consequences that the introduction of a technology has on organizational processes and workflows, also taking into account acceptability and usability, as well as cost-effectiveness, regulatory aspects (e.g., privacy, safety, security etc.) and the societal and environmental impact along the solution's life cycle.

- **Strategic objective 3.2.:** Facilitate understanding and promotes the use of new technologies for advancing the involvement of users in service development and implementation, for the purpose of respecting the rights of service users and enhancing the quality of services.
- **Strategic objective 3.3.:** Facilitate the development, application and wide-reaching use of digital tools that improve the inclusion and autonomy of persons with disabilities/ users of services, and the quality of services and support.
- **Strategic objective 3.4.:** Promote the support, training and funding for the adoption of new technologies in service provision. Emphasise ethics, rights and responsibilities that come with advanced use of new technologies.

## Strategic priority 4: EPR demonstrates leadership in supporting transitions in education, employment, independent living, and rehabilitation

EPR members demonstrate leadership and provide orientation for supporting all main life transitions (between education, training, employment and retirement, transitions between adolescence, adulthood, age and frailty, transitions between cure, care, rehabilitation and autonomy, and transitions in changing communities, societies, environments and economics).

EPR provides its members with insights on trends, developments, and emerging gaps in education, employment, independent living, and rehabilitation. EPR provides analyses of sector-wide challenges, incl environmental and sustainability factors. EPR is a platform for sharing effective approaches that support individuals at different life stages. EPR equips leaders with the knowledge to anticipate changes and adapt their organisations to evolving needs. Through information exchange and foresight, EPR strengthens the capacity of service providers to navigate transitions and ensure high-quality, future-ready support for the people they serve.

EPR leadership understanding equates with a broad range of leaders from front line professionals to higher management.

- **Strategic objective 4.1.:** Provide insights and facilitates information exchange on trends, developments, and emerging gaps to help members anticipate and adapt to sector changes.
- **Strategic objective 4.2.:** Gather good practices of members in addressing transitions in education, employment, independent living, and rehabilitation, by collecting proven methods, tools, and scalable solutions. These resources are designed to be adaptable across diverse economic, social, and environmental contexts, ensuring their relevance in an increasingly complex and dynamic sector.
- **Strategic objective 4.3.:** Provide training and opportunities for members to collaborate on peer exchange and strengthen leadership and management skills in the member organisations.

## Strategic priority 5: EPR is a point of reference for Quality Standards across Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities

EPR serves as a point of reference for high quality and excellence in services to persons with disabilities. EPR members deliver services that contribute to improving the quality of life of the service users.

EPR promotes the use and continuous improvement of quality assurance systems, aiming at enhancing the overall quality of services for people with disabilities and other groups with support/assistance needs. EPR contributes to the effort with operating and advancing the new EQUASS, and uses the gained experience and expertise to inform policy.

- **Strategic objective 5.1.:** EU initiatives on quality and excellence of services reflect EPR inputs
- **Strategic objective 5.2.:** Increased knowledgeability and importance of quality in services provided by EPR members

## Strategic priority 6: EPR grows its policy influence through targeted contributions and strategic partnerships

We do that by analysing EU policy outcomes related to the sector and provides information to EPR members. Designing a policy strategic agenda to guide its advocacy efforts. Gathering members outputs to provide feedback to EU policy consultations.

- **Strategic objective 6.1.:** Increase EPR influence on EU policy and develop a policy strategic agenda
- **Strategic objective 6.2.:** Increases members' involvement into policy discussions and developments
- **Strategic objective 6.3.:** Grow EPR network of strategic partnerships for policy matters
- **Strategic objective 6.4.:** Broaden EPR network among European Institutions