

Public consultation on the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

There are approximately 80 million citizens with disabilities in the EU, who often face barriers that prevent them from fully participating in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others. In its commitment to eliminate these barriers and improve the life of people with disabilities, the EU became a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Convention). Implementing the Convention is an ongoing process and it is a shared responsibility of the EU institutions and the Member States. The EU can only act within the powers conferred to it by the EU treaties. A first review of the EU's implementation of the UN Convention, done by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognised the progress achieved until now, but also provided some recommendations for the future.

At EU level, the UN Convention is implemented through the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. This Strategy has identified eight main areas for action at EU level: Accessibility, Participation, Equality, Employment, Education and Training, Social Protection, Health and External Action. Having reached the halfway point in its implementation, the European Commission launches this public consultation in order to assess its impact and to ensure EU policy remains tailored to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

This questionnaire asks for your opinion on what has been achieved so far at EU level, your views on the challenges faced by all persons with disabilities and how the European Union should address them. We appreciate all replies from citizens, organisations, public authorities, businesses, academics and other stakeholders.

We will use the findings of this public consultation to assess the progress made under the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and to identify gaps to be addressed at EU level to ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.

Completing the survey should take about 20 minutes.

Accessibility matters to us. If you have difficulty in accessing this online consultation, please find here attached an [accessible Word version](#), which you can complete offline and return it to the following email address: EMPL-C3-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Please note that the questionnaire will only use your full contribution if your name or that of your organisation (if you answer on behalf of an organisation or institution) is provided. If you choose not to provide the name, you have the option of submitting a general comment only.

* If you do choose to provide us with your name or your organisation's name, you can still opt for your answers to remain anonymous when the results are published.

- Yes, I will provide the name (and survey begins)
- No, I prefer to provide a general comment only (and survey ends here)

1. Publication consent

* Contributions received from this survey may be published on the European Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Do you agree to your contribution being published under your name?

- My contribution may be published under the name indicated
- My contribution may be published but the name should be kept anonymous
- I do not wish any of my contributions to be published

2. Profile of the respondent

Please mark the options that apply to you

* Are you replying

- (a) As an individual citizen, on behalf of myself only
- (b) On behalf of an organisation

What is the name of your organisation?

European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)

* What type of organisation do you represent?

- Private sector
- Public sector
- Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) - reserved for organisations in which persons with disabilities are in leadership positions or are members of the board
- Other

* At what level does the organisation work?

- International level
- EU level
- National level
- Regional or local level

* Is your organisation in the [EU's Transparency Register](#)?

- Yes

No

* What is the Identification Number?

45696998939-63

* Does your organisation employ persons with disabilities?

Yes

No

3. Your views on the current situation of persons with disabilities

3.1 Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
*Persons with disabilities can fully participate in everyday activities as other citizens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as other citizens	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Persons with disabilities face discrimination in their everyday activities because of their disabilities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*EU citizens with disabilities find it more difficult to move to another Member State than other EU citizens	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 3.2 Out of the following problems, which ones do you find more important for persons with disabilities?

between 1 and 5 choices

Lack of access to the built environment

Lack of access to transport

- Lack of access to Internet and communication technologies
- Lack of access to other goods and services
- Lack of equal opportunities in the labour market
- Lack of equal opportunities in education
- Lack of support for parents of children with disabilities (such as appropriate education provision or therapeutic services)
- Lack of equal access to healthcare (doctors, hospitals, etc.), including age-appropriate support for children
- Barriers to free movement within the EU
- Discrimination (including double discrimination, such as towards women with disabilities and children with disabilities)
- Difficulty living independently (for instance predominance of care in large residential institutions and/or lack of services in the community)
- Difficulty participating in political and public life
- Difficulty participating in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
- Difficulties stemming from the design of employment legislation or social protection schemes (such as the loss of disability allowance when entering the labour market, independently of the wage)
- Difficulty being heard in matters that affect them
- Lack of disability-related training for service professionals who might deal with persons with disabilities throughout their professional lives (such as teachers, doctors and lawyers)
- Poverty and low income
- Barriers to the recognition and exercise of legal capacity
- Mistreatment (such as violence, abuse or neglect of liberty and dignity)

3.3 Are there particular challenges that you can identify for children with disabilities that are different from the challenges faced by adults with disabilities?

300 character(s) maximum

Downs syndrome prevention meaning that fewer children are born with disabilities: more difficult for them to get recognition & they feel more "different". Mainstreaming for children with disabilities in education: getting sufficient support, ensuring other students also receive sufficient support.

*** 3.4** Have you personally experienced any of the problems mentioned in the previous question (3.2)?

- Yes
- Only indirectly, through the experience of family members
- Only indirectly, through the experience of friends
- Only indirectly, through the experience of co-workers
- No
- No answer

3.5 Are there any other areas where you think the lives of persons with disabilities could be improved?

- Yes

- No
- No answer

Which ones?

200 character(s) maximum

Transition from education to labour market for young persons with disabilities

*** 3.6** Are you aware of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020?

- Yes
- No
- No answer

4. The impact of implementing the European Disability Strategy for the period 2010-2015

4.1 Five years after the adoption of the Strategy, how has the situation of persons with disabilities improved in the following priority areas defined in the Strategy?

	Very much	To a good extent	To a certain extent	Slightly	Not at all	No answer
*Accessibility: Of goods and services including public services and assistive devices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Participation in society by: - enjoying the benefits of EU citizenship - removing administrative and attitudinal barriers to full and equal participation - providing quality community-based services, including access to personal assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Equality: Fighting discrimination on grounds of disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Employment: Earning a living on the open labour market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Education and training: Inclusive education and lifelong learning for pupils and students with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Social protection: Decent living conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Health: Equal access to health services and related facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*External action: Promote the rights of persons with disabilities within the EU external action	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 4.2 Which factors were more determining in achieving progress, even if limited? (*Multiple choice possible*)

- EU policy action
- The use of EU funding
- Developments at national level
- Private initiatives
- Public opinion/ changes of mentality
- Economic conditions
- New scientific discoveries and/or technological change
- Interest groups and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) advocacy
- Business lobbying
- Other political activity which impacted disability policy
- Don't know

Comment box (if you would like to add something or give examples):

300 character(s) maximum

Introducing a platform with comparative information on social protection cash benefits and social services for persons with disabilities throughout EU will contribute to improving their understanding and access to information on the portability of their social protection cash benefit and services.

*** 4.3** Please rate your overall satisfaction with what has been achieved in the last five years (2010-2015) to improve the situation of persons with disabilities:

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Don't know

*** 4.4** Which do you think are the main obstacles for a quicker progress? (*Multiple choice possible*)

- Lack of human and financial resources
- Lack of political will
- Lack of adequate legislation
- Limits to EU competence for action
- Lack of involvement of persons with disabilities
- Lack of awareness among the non-disabled
- The economic situation
- Lack of social pressure
- Stigma associated with disability
- Lack of policy makers' understanding for the specificity of disability-related needs
- Other

4.5 General comment:

1500 character(s) maximum

To improve implementation of initiatives and aims of the European Disability Strategy we call for a greater recognition of the role of services to persons with disabilities and a greater involvement of such service providers. In the planned work on employment and reasonable accommodation it is important to engage service providers who have experience of partnerships with employers for integrating people with disabilities in the workplace, to share good practice and dispel stigma. EPR offers the expertise of its members in this field. It is also important to showcase good practice in community-based services, particularly services funded by the ESIF. We call for a renewed Guide to Social Considerations in Public Procurement, to include highlighting the opportunities for measures that support people with disabilities and good practice in this field, as well highlighting the possibilities for and benefits of contracting high-quality social services. The Commission should continue to promote the Voluntary Quality Framework for Social Services,

particularly among public authorities. We call on the Commission to develop a strategy to ensure that the European Semester contributes positively to the implementation of the UNCRPD, including in the AGS, Country Report analyses and CSRs. The social investment approach must continue to be promoted and supported by the European Commission, to ensure access to quality services to all people who are in need of care or support.

Contact

✉ EMPL-C3-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu
