



EASPD Annual Conference 2017

FLOURISHING LIVES

Supportive communities and sustainable development

Plenary 1

Human rights: a reality for all

The Council of Europe Disability Strategy



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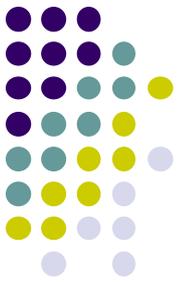
The Council of Europe and the CAHDPH

The Council of Europe (CoE), founded in 1949, is a regional intergovernmental organisation which promotes **human rights**, **democracy** and the **rule of law** in its 47 member states, covering 820 million citizens, thanks to standards, charters and conventions to facilitate cooperation between countries.

Its two statutory bodies are the **Committee of Ministers**, comprising the foreign ministers of each MS, and the **Parliamentary Assembly**, composed of MPs of national parliaments. The Secretary General heads the Secretariat of the organisation.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CAHDPH**) was set up to steer the intergovernmental work in the field of disability rights, assigned to it by the Committee of Ministers. It gives advice, guidance and support to other CoE bodies and to MSs on disability related issues and, *inter alia*, prepared the Council of Europe **post-2015 Disability Strategy** and undertake its implementation.





The new CoE Disability Strategy

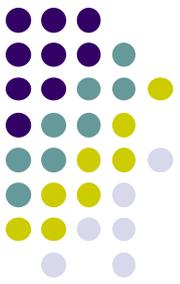
CoE adopted its **new Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2023** on 30 November 2016 and launched it in Nicosia (Cyprus) on March 2017, following the Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2006/2015. It was drafted by CoE MSs in co-operation with civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the framework of CAHDPH and under the umbrella of the UNCRPD.

The **overall goal** of the Strategy is to achieve **equality, dignity and equal opportunities for PWDs** in specific areas where the CoE can make an input. This requires ensuring independence, freedom of choice, full and active participation in all areas of life and society.

This will be achieved through work and activities **around 5 priority areas**: 1. Equality and non-discrimination 2. Awareness raising 3. Accessibility 4. Equal recognition before the law 5. Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

Action will also target **5 cross-cutting themes**: participation, co-operation and co-ordination, universal design and reasonable accommodation, gender equality perspective, multiple discrimination and education and training.





The Agenda 2030 and the SDGs

Another brick in the wall

In the well structured international framework of the rights of PWDs (UNCRC, CoE acts, EU Strategy, OSCE etc) **the Agenda 2030** and the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) came in 2015

After the MDGs, in September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** that includes **17 SDGs**: building on the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the new Agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all, including PWDs

The 2030 Agenda is a commitment by Governments to:

build a better future for all people, including millions who are currently denied the chance to lead **decent, dignified and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential**;

succeeding in **ending poverty, reducing inequalities, and saving the planet** from ecological degradation and climate change

The **SDGs explicitly include disability and PWDs 11 times**. specifically in the parts related to: education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, data collection and monitoring



How do SDGs interact with intl framework?



The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs should enter global and national policies relating to sustainable development and, to be successful, all MSs **must include PWDs in their policies**



Both the SDGs and the CRPD **must be implemented as a whole**, therefore MSs should not ‘cherry pick’ single goals or articles, all interconnected.

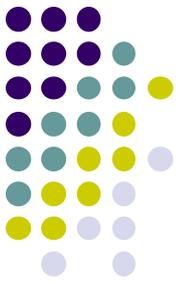


The Agenda and the SDGs can – must - be interpreted **through the lens of the UNCRPD and other international Acts** (such as the CoE Strategy).

For example:

- All references to ‘equal’ must be underpinned by **CRPD article 5**, which promotes equality of opportunity and non-discrimination of PWDs
- All references to ‘access’ or ‘inclusion’ can be fulfilled by **article 9 of the CRPD** on accessibility which requires governments to take action to ensure PWDs the right to independent living and participate in all aspects of life.





So, why does the CoE Strategy matter?

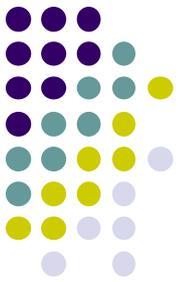


The Strategy seeks to encompass all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, In line – inter alia - with the UNCRPD, but, unlike the UNCRPD, **the Strategy does not create legal obligations** to MSs. The Strategy aims at guiding and supporting the implementation of the UNCRPD carried out by the CoE, its MSs and other stakeholders both at national and local level

The **interpretation** and **implementation** of the 5 priority areas of the Strategy will be done – inter alia - in line with the UNCRPD, the General Comments of the UNCRPD Committee, as well as the UN SDGs, part of the tools to improve the inclusion of PWDs

The cross-cutting themes and the priority areas are in line with the SDGs like social inclusion, gender perspective or education and training (c.c. t.) or non discriminations and accessibility (p.a.)

Therefore MSs, when implementing the CoE Strategy, should act under the umbrella of both the UNCRPD and the Agenda2030/SDGs in order to put into practice coherent, effective and inclusive policies for all, including PWDs (“*The MSs should take into consideration the developments within the CoE, as well as in the UN, on the interpretation and implementation of the UNCRPD. This includes [...] the UN SDGs*”).



Some practical examples

The implementation of the Strategy is based on a “**twin-track**” approach

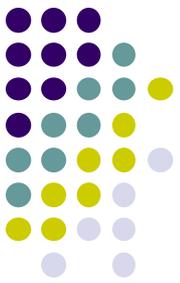
- The first track comprises specific projects, campaigns, trainings, activities, etc., organised at national and local levels by national stakeholders in the MSs
- The second track consists of mainstreaming disability-related issues in all the work and activities of the CoE.

As for **Accessibility**, CoE bodies, MSs and relevant stakeholders should

- a) Promote debate on access to information, communications and digital environment, including media and information literacy as well as inclusion and participation in shaping public policies;
- b) Promote accessibility and the use of universal design
- c) Promote the use of accessible and user friendly means, modes and formats of communication, including sign languages, braille, easy to read text and other alternative and augmentative communication methods,
- d) Support efforts to collect adequately age and sex-disaggregated data and targeted statistics to enable States to formulate and develop policies and tools to improve access to human rights by persons with disabilities
- e) Identify, collect and disseminate existing good practices on accessibility, and in particular on access to information

All actions, on both tracks, should be consistent with the UNCRPD and the SDGs

Let's not integrate: let's include (both tools and persons)



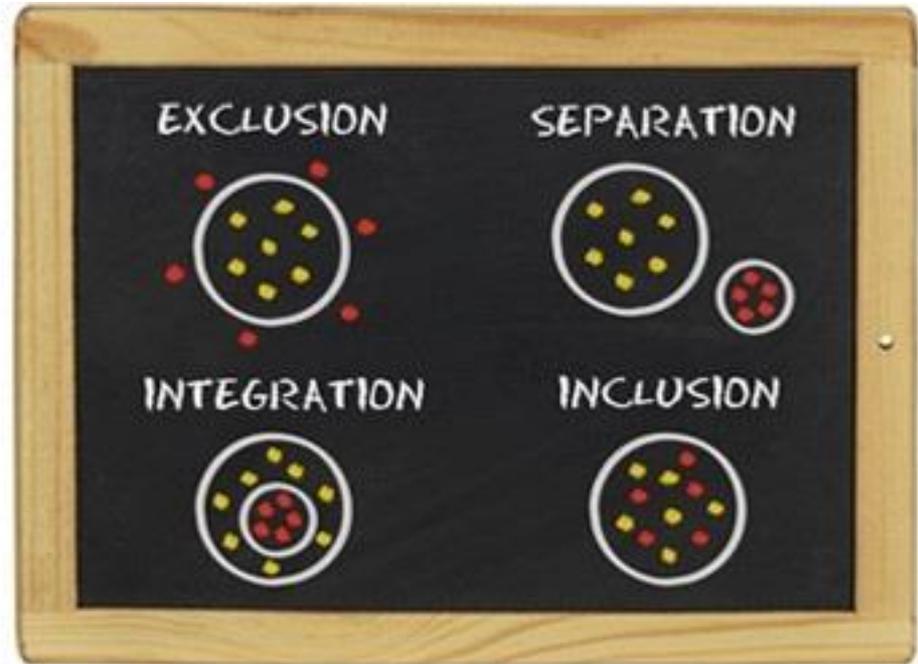
UNCRPD plus

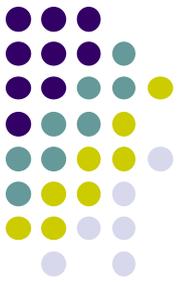
SDGs plus

CoE Strategy

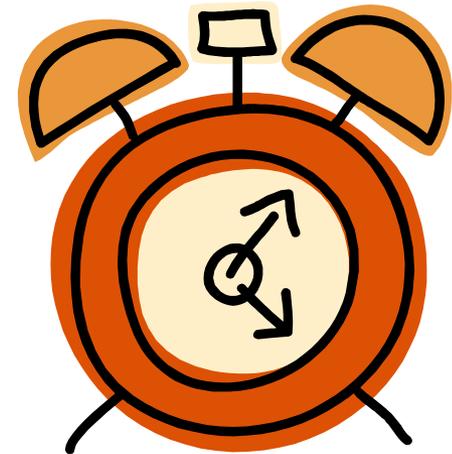
plus

= a planet for all





Thanks for your attention!



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 <https://www.coe.int/en/web/disability>