The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

1. Background

The Agenda 2030 was adopted by the United Nations in 2015. It is the convergence of two complementary global processes:
1. Post-Millennium Development Goals, which focused on developing countries and eradication of poverty.
2. Post-Rio, which is linked to the UN conferences on environment (e.g. Rio+ 20 Conference on Sustainable Development).

At the core of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) are the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Agenda 2030 addresses eradication of poverty and furthermore the environmental, economic and social dimension of sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner.

The SDGs entered into force in 2016 and apply to all countries around the world and at all level of development.

2. Disability in the SDGs

Disability is referenced in different parts of the SDGs:

* Goal number 4: Quality Education
* Goal number 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
* Goal number 10: Reduced Inequalities
* Goal number 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
* Goal number 17: Partnership for the Goals

The social services actors can play a key role to reach various targets, e.g. social inclusion, access to basic services and social protection.

3. Follow-up and review

The follow-up and review of the SDGs is a governmental process and happens on a voluntary base. To this extent the UN organises a high level political forum (HLPF) every year taking place under the auspices of the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Follow-up and review at the HLPF will be informed by a yearly SDG Progress Report, which is prepared by the Secretary General in cooperation with the UN System. This report is based on the global indicators framework, information collected at regional level and data produced by national statistical systems. The HLPF will

also be informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall strengthen the science-policy. Every year a selected group of SDGs will be reviewed within the realm of the HLPF.

Furthermore, the follow-up and review will track progress in implementing the universal goals and targets, including the means of implementation, will maintain a long-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors and support countries in making informed policy choices. In addition to that, they will be people-centered, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.

As part of the follow-up and review of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development voluntary national reviews (VNRs) will be conducted, which are based on common reporting guidelines. This framework entails a range of elements with space for flexibility for nations to adjust to their own situation. The UN encourages members states to conduct inclusive and regular reviews not only at national, but also at sub-national levels. Furthermore, VNRs provide the opportunity to share experiences which can accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

4. SDGs and EU agenda

On the European level, annual EUROSTAT reports are published. The first one was released in 2017.

The aim of these reports is to serve as regular monitoring tool to assess the progress towards SDGs in the EU context based on indicators adopted by EUROSTAT. In 2019 the EU is going to present a report to the HLPF, which will mainly focus on social goals. The development of this report is written down in the Council Conclusion of 2017.

5. References

- 2018, European Commission. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/2030-agenda-sustainable-development_en
- Social Services Europe (2017). Social Services, and their impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Sustainable Development Agenda: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/.
- Sustainable Development. Knowledge Platform: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld