



EASPD's proposals for the List of Issues of the EU report on the implementation of the UN CRPD

1. The austerity measures promoted by the EU

The European Commission encourages cuts to public expenditure, which frequently result in cuts to expenditure on social and health services and social protection measures; at the same time it also wishes the European Union to be a model of inclusiveness. This contradictory approach cannot lead to success. Often the most innovative, person-centred individualised support services suffer the most from austerity policies promoted by the EU. One of the effects of this situation is a tendency towards re-institutionalisation, lack of access to the labour market and to mainstream education.

2. Use of EU Structural Funds

The lack of individualised support for persons with disabilities is not only detrimental for the individual's life and personal development but also a clear violation of rights under the UN CRPD. The European Union must put an end to the misuse of the Structural and Investment Funds and strengthen its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The EU could strengthen its commitment on this issue by delivering a specific Communication on the transition from segregating-institutional settings to community-based ones to mark the change required in the design and delivery of service provision and the engagement needed at all levels across sectors.

3. The role of the EU Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education

The EU should strengthen the mandate of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education and align it to the principles enshrined in the UN CRPD as currently this Agency provides policy recommendations without giving clear inputs and commitments on how to implement them.

4. The role of the European Disability Strategy

The lack of recognition of the support dimension in the European Disability Strategy puts the viability of services under threat. It should be an EU priority to protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities, and this must also include the provision of quality, adequate, accessible, affordable individualised support services.

Some of the areas of the Strategy that should be tackled with a broader perspective are "Accessibility", which is currently overly focused on physical barriers, and "Participation", where the human support dimension to promote independent living is not sufficiently developed. The collection of disaggregated data is also essential to design policies that are targeted to real needs.

5. The leading role of the European Union within its institutions

The EU institutions lack sufficient support structures for staff members who have a disability and for their family members. There are a lack of inclusive education programmes for family members of EU civil servants attending European schools. Additionally, in the field of employment, only a very small percentage of persons with disabilities are employed within the EU institutions, with an over representation within that group of persons with physical disabilities. The European Union currently does not have a specialised service for the employment of persons with disabilities, nor any specific policy addressing this issue within its bodies.

Stronger leadership should be taken by European institutions to trigger positive developments across the Member States.

6. The EU framework on the implementation of the UN CRPD

The composition of the EU level framework set up under Article 33 of the UN CRPD should be revised in order to ensure a pluralistic participation of different civil society organisations according to the Paris Principles.



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EASPD (European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities) promotes equal opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high quality service systems in Europe, representing over 10,000 social and health service provider organisations across Europe and across disabilities. EASPD believes in quality affordable, accessible and adaptable services that improve the quality of life. EASPD works towards ensuring the full implementation of the UNCRPD and is accredited to the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD.



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