



EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF

A European Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with
European Parliament, European Commission and the Council of Europe

European Union of the Deaf (EUD) feedback on the Roadmap: Disability Rights Strategy for 2021 - 2030

The post 2020 EU Disability Strategy (EDS) should ensure that:

ACCESSIBILITY

- **The accessibility of information and communication through national sign languages for deaf persons is guaranteed** to the same extent as information and communication through spoken language is ensured for hearing persons.
- **Actions that would ensure that all deaf Europeans and sign language users have access to sign language are taken**, e.g. the EU should urge all Member States to recognise sign languages in the EU countries as official languages and ensuring their use in different domains, e.g. employment, education and in all the other areas of life.
- **The EU Institutions are accessible for deaf Europeans** through the provision of sign language interpretation on site and during meetings and making their online content accessible, e.g. through the use of subtitles and/or closed captioning.
- **The gaps left by the European Accessibility Act are filled** by proposing legislation that would oblige all of the built environment and transport to be accessible to all. Such legislation should take into account the variety of perspectives on accessibility.
- **The EU Access Board is established.**

MOBILITY

- **The existing legislation, Regulation 883/2004/EC is amended or new legislation that coordinates the benefits that grant access to sign language interpreting services for deaf persons who exercise their right to freedom of movement is adopted.**

PARTICIPATION

- **Citizens can fully enjoy their political rights at all stages of the political processes** and that the information and communication is fully accessible for all, which for the deaf

voters implies that all information related to the elections must be accessible through national sign languages.

EMPLOYMENT

- **The lack of access to employment, the lack of reasonable accommodation, and accessibility measures during employment, and the lack of data on actual employment levels is addressed.**
- **Data disaggregated by disability type is collected.** National statistical offices, national focal points on the UN CRPD, organisations representing persons with disabilities, alongside Eurostat must collaborate on the development and use of harmonised methods and use tools (like Washington Set of Short Questions) in the EU for data collection at the national level which would later be input into Eurostat's database.
- **Data on the employment/unemployment of persons with different types of disabilities is collected.** This would allow for an identification of the gaps, e.g. the gap in unemployed deaf persons in the EU, who are a potential yet unused or underused work force.

SKILLS

- **Specific actions that would focus on the digital upskilling of people with disabilities are taken.**

EQUALITY

- **The anti-discrimination directive which would protect the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas of life is adopted or the current Equal Treatment Directive is unblocked and adopted.**

EDUCATION

- **The link is established with the Erasmus+ 2021 – 2027 programme, its Inclusion Strategy and the EU Solidarity Corps to ensure it is inclusive of and fully accessible to deaf persons.**
- **Learning mobilities funded by EU funds are accompanied by sign language support for deaf beneficiaries as they are accompanied by language support for hearing beneficiaries.**

ACCESS TO HEALTH AND JUSTICE

- **All information and communication pertaining to core human rights, such as access to health care and access to justice are accessible through sign languages directly or through the provision of high-quality sign language interpreting.**

OTHER UN CRPD RIGHTS

- **Every article in the UN CRPD is addressed and their implementation is compliant with the UN CRPD General Comments and is constructed around the Concluding Observations and recommendations to the EU that the Committee adopted.**

GOVERNANCE

- **A clear funding dedicated to implementation and monitoring is included, with an indication of the amounts to be earmarked.**
- **Disability Focal Points on each EU institution, agency and body, including the Fundamental Rights Agency and the European Institute for Gender Equality are established.** Focal points should also be assigned to all Commission DGs and each of the Member States; It is also crucial to ensure better inter-institutional coordination between the Commission, the Parliament and the Council.