

The EU Disability Strategy

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The EU Disability Strategy

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KEY FIGURES (I)

★ **44.6 MILLION** – one in six –persons aged between 16 and 64 report a long standing health problem or disability i.e. at least **16% of the overall EU working age population**. Among young people (16- 25), the figure stands at 7,3%.

★ **63% OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE OLDER THAN 45**
Nearly 30% of people in the age group 55-64 report a disability and the incidence of disability will increase as the EU population gets older.

★ **50% OF DISABLED PERSONS ARE EMPLOYED COMPARED TO 68% OF NON DISABLED**

★ **THE INACTIVITY RATE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IS TWICE THAT OF NON DISABLED PEOPLE**

★ Only 15.9 % of working disabled persons are provided with some assistance to work. At the same time, **43.7 % of respondents believe they could work if they were given adequate assistance.**

★ Measuring eAccessibility?

Euro barometer "Discrimination in the European Union" 2007 on disability matters

- **Fact: 74% of EU population thinks that we need more persons with disability in the work place while perceive having a disability as a disadvantage to get a job.**
- **This perception reinforces the conclusion on the need to increase the participation of people with disabilities in society and strengthen action to combat discrimination in employment which is supported by almost 90% of the population..**

- **Fact: 91% of respondent agree to spend more money in eliminating physical barriers for people with disabilities.**
- **This overwhelming support is particular important considering the relation between disability and ageing and planning the actions to cope with the demographic shift preventing accessibility problems. The support to expending more money on accessibility supports the work on accessibility requirements in public procurement.**

INCLUDING ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Why a DISABILITY STRATEGY AT EU LEVEL?

Disability policies are essentially the responsibility of individual Member States.

However European community policies and actions impact in many ways on situation of people with disabilities.

Hence, there is a need to (1) reinforce the disability dimension in all relevant EU policies and actions and to (2) establish a sustainable and operational approach to disability in the EU.

.... From Equal Rights to Equal Opportunities....

....From 2003 to 2010...

- ★ **Disability is a right issue and not a matter of discretion:** this approach is at the core of the UN Convention of the rights of People with Disabilities, to which the European Community is a signatory.
- ★ **People with disabilities have the same rights as non disabled persons and should have access to them in practice:** enabling people with disabilities to enjoy their rights is at the centre of the EU actions.
- ★ **Requires adequate policy and actions defined together with people with disabilities themselves :** mainstreaming is a crucial methodology allowing to take into account the needs of people with disabilities at all stages of policy developments.

DEFINITION

...Four pillars...

★ **EU ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION AND MEASURES:**

Providing access to individual rights (Directive 2000/78/EC, Anti-Discrimination Programme).

★ **MAINSTREAMING OF DISABILITY ISSUES** : Mainstreaming in order to facilitate active inclusion of disabled people.

★ **ACCESSIBILITY** : Elimination of obstacles preventing disabled people from exercising their abilities.

★ **MOBILISING STAKEHOLDERS THROUGH DIALOGUE** : Nothing about people with disabilities without people with disabilities.

Dialogue through regular meetings with (1) MS, (2) people with disabilities, (3) civil society representatives and (4) stakeholders.

MAINSTREAMING Requirements of Mainstreaming Disability & Design for ALL

- ★ POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE**
- ★ INTEGRATION OF DISABILITY PERSPECTIVE**
 - in all policy areas
 - at all stages of policy development
- ★ ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL COMMISSION SERVICES**
- ★ INVOLVING ALL RELEVANT ACTORS**, including NGOs and representative organisations of people with disabilities
- ★ MAKING USE OF** (1) methodological tools, (2) suitable coordination, (3) adequate monitoring and (4) impact assessment.

THE EU DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

....Instruments....

- ★ **LEGISLATION:** **horizontal** (anti discrimination in employment) and **sectoral** (transport by air, state aid, public procurement, structural funds)
- ★ **OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION:** (1) employment, (2) social inclusion, (3) social protection, (4) health and long term care, (5) life long learning.
- ★ **RESEARCH:** data collection and analysis, de-institutionalization, accessibility, specific risks of discrimination, women with disabilities, reasonable accommodation...
- ★ **FUNDING:** Structural funds including the **European Social Fund**, **new programme Progress** including funding for running costs of disability NGOs, **pilot projects** on mainstreaming...

European activities, priorities

- **Strategic objectives for 2004-2005**
 - Access and retention of employment
 - Lifelong learning
 - Using the potential of new technologies
 - Accessibility to the public built environment
- **Priority areas for 2006-2007**
 - Encouraging activity (beyond employment)
 - Promoting access to quality support and care services
 - Fostering accessibility of goods and services
 - Increasing the EUs analytical capacity
- **Priority areas for 2008-2009 Consultations?????**

Presidency Conclusions June 2007

- **Endorsement of UN Convention-> quick ratification**
- **Coherent & coordinated approach: EU implementation**
- **Non discrimination -> art. 13 initiative**
- **EU Disability Action plan – implementation of UNC**
- **Sustainable Framework: Disability at Ministerial level**
- **High level group:**
 - identify common challenges & solutions
 - Report to Ministerial disability conferences

UN Convention art 9

- **Accessibility to:**
 - the physical environment
 - Transportation
 - to information and communications,
 - including information and communications technologies and systems & internet
 - other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas
- minimum standards and guidelines
- private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public
- Promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost -> Design for All

Accessible ICT- UNC

- **Communication**
- **General principles**
- **Equality & non discrimination:...Reasonable accomodation**
- **Awarness raising**
- **Access to justice**
- **Living independently and being included in the community**
- **Personal mobility**
- **Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information**
- **Respect for privacy**
- **Education**
- **Habilitation and rehabilitation : ...AT**
- **Work and employment**
- **Participation in political and public life**
- **Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport**

Implementation UNC-DAP

- **Formal**
- **Practical implementation**
 - **Legal**
 - **Programmes**
 - **Policies**
 - **Funding**
- **Variety of approaches to eAccessibility in MS**
- **Antidiscrimination**
- **Enabling: Procurement, funding**
- **Vertical legislation**

- **Impact assesment**

Trends

- **Diversity**
- **eInclusion**

- **Global markets**
- **International initiatives:**
 - **EU-US dialogue**
 - **TEITAC**
 - **3GIct**
 - **Council of Europe**

Design for all <-> Assistive

Targeted measures + respect of ideosincrisias

eAccessibility strategy

- RTD starting with TIDE...->FP7
- eEurope 2002...->2005...->i2010
- European Action plan 2010 Communication
- **Key documents**
 - Web Accessibility Communication
 - eAccessibility Communication
 - Council resolutions on eAccessibility 2004, 2005
 - Council resolutions on eInclusion, 2004
 - Ministerial declaration Crete and Riga
 - EP resolutions on web accessibility
 - Communication on the situation of people with disabilities in the enlarged Union 2006-2007
- 2007 Communications, Impact Assessment

Key Areas: Communication on eAccessibility

Approach

- Improve the consistency of eAccessibility requirements in Public Procurement
- Explore the possible benefits of certification schemes and standardisation for accessible products
- Make better use of the «eAccessibility potential» of existing legislation

... **Complemented by several background measures**

- Accessibility requirements and standards.
- Design for All
- Web accessibility
- Benchmark and monitoring.
- Research and technological development.

Progress will be reviewed in two years from now when additional measures may be proposed including new legislation

Public Web sites accessibility

- **2007:**
 - **Measurement: observatory**
 - **Sites identification & technologies**
 - **WCAG 2.0 ?**
- **2008:**
 - **Analysis of obstacles and drivers**
 - **Best practices sharing**
 - **Legal picture**
 - **Training, conformity assessment, labelling, evaluation**
- **2010:**
 - **Targets, gradual implementation**
 - **Authoring tools,**
 - **training**

Standards

- **Minimum standards**
- **Functional requirements**
- **Technical standards**
- **Guidance material**
- **Use of standards**
- **Assessing conformity:**
 - **Self declaration – Third party**
 - **Voluntary – Mandatory**
 - **Reliable**
 - **Reproducible**
 - **Independent**
 - **Clear meaning**
 - **Transparent**
 - **Testable**
- **Enforcement of standards**

RTD

- **Coherent, comprehensive, multidisciplinary,....**
- **PREVENTION -> DFA**
- **Real life problems**
- **Policy and legislation support**
- **Basic research**
- **User involvement**
- **Market issues, exploitation**
- **Professional and organisational responsibility -> regulation of professional qualifications**

Call2 Accessible and Inclusive ICT

Key Areas

Deeply **embedding accessibility** in mainstream ICT.

Methods and tools for **computer simulation** of user interaction and validation frameworks.

Assistive solutions based on non invasive **Brain computer interaction**.

Supporting Measures

Assistive technology constituencies coordination

International cooperation

Preparatory Actions

ICT based Communication and shared environments for social inclusion of marginalized young people



Demonstration of accessible solutions in real life using context.

Enable new market opportunities.

Facilitate seamless interaction between accessible mainstream ICT and assistive solutions.

Facilitate development and production of accessible ICT.

Better understanding of ethical issues , market requirements barriers and cost benefit aspects.

RTD capacity on ICT solutions for social inclusion.

Expected Impacts

FP7 Objective 3.7.2.1:

Call2 Accessible and Inclusive ICT

- **Objective ICT-2007.7.2: Accessible and Inclusive ICT 43 M€:**
- - CP 40 M€ of which a minimum of 20 M€ to IP and a minimum of 8 M€ to STREP;
- - CSA 3 M€
- **ICT Call 2**
- • Date of publication⁴³: May/June 2007
- • Closure date⁴⁴: Sep/Oct 2007
- International cooperation Call 3
- Planned Publication December 2007

The mandate to the Standardisation organisations: eAccessibility

- **Phase I: Inventory**
 - Report on standardisation plan technical requirements and award criteria ETSI
 - Report on testing and conformity assessment CEN
- **Phase II: Standardisation Activities**
 - European standard (EN)
 - Technical report (TR) and support guidelines
 - On line freely accessible toolkit
- **EU- US dialogue on eAccessibility**

Measuring progress of eAccessibility in Europe (objectives)

- To **identify measures** (e.g. policy, legal, industrial, ...) that have a significant positive impact on eAccessibility and that support the Community eAccessibility strategy
- To **assess how ICT** products and services available in Europe take into account **eAccessibility and Design for All**
- To **assess the eAccessibility situation in Europe** and to measure its evolution quantifying the impact of the proposed approaches and measures
- To **assess the implementation** of successful measures, that can serve as policy recommendations in the eAccessibility domain.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

SET-UP MONITORING & FOLLOW-UP

★ THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Disability High Level Group meetings**, comprising MS and third sector representatives.
- **Disability Inter-Service Group meetings**, comprising civil servants from different directorates general.
- **Dialogue with the EP**, monitoring of Parliamentary Inter-Service group activities
- **Dialogue with CoR and EESC**

★ THROUGH OTHER MEANS

- **Dialogue with Social Partners** and other relevant **stakeholders**
- **Establishment of the Action Plan scoreboard** allowing continual monitoring of the implementation process
- Through eventual meetings of **MS disability ministers**

Funding opportunities

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_tenders_en.cfm

Open Call for Tender VT/2007/007 –

"Providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the EU – best practices and financing schemes"

Open Call for Tender VT/2007/006 - "Study on the situation of women with disabilities in Europe in light of the UN convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities"

Open Call for Tender VT/2007/004 - "Organisation of the European day Conference for People with Disabilities"

Diversity, Networks

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_calls_en.cfm

Open Call for Proposals VP/2007/013 - "Establishment of 3-year partnerships with Eu-level networks active in the field of combating social exclusion and discrimination, promoting gender equality and the integration of disabled people and representing roma people"

For further information ...

- **On European accessibility strategy**
- **http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/disability/index_en.html**
- **projects financed in RTD in previous frame work programmes**
- **http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_f/einclusion/previous-research.htm**
- **On the preparatory work for eInclusion research for Frame work programme 7**
- **http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_f/einclusion/future.htm**
- **On eInclusion and eAccessibility policies**
- **http://europa.eu.int/information_society/soccul/eincl/index_en.htm**
- **http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/accessibility/index_en.htm**
- **Inmaculada.placencia-porrero@ec.europa.eu**

Examples of Wider Applicability of e-Accessibility Technologies



- TV subtitles
 - Web accessibility
 - TV audio description
 - Low platform buses
- children
Device independence
older persons
travellers