

# Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

Easy to read version

Easy to read is information  
that is written in a simple way  
so that persons with intellectual disabilities  
and all people can understand it.



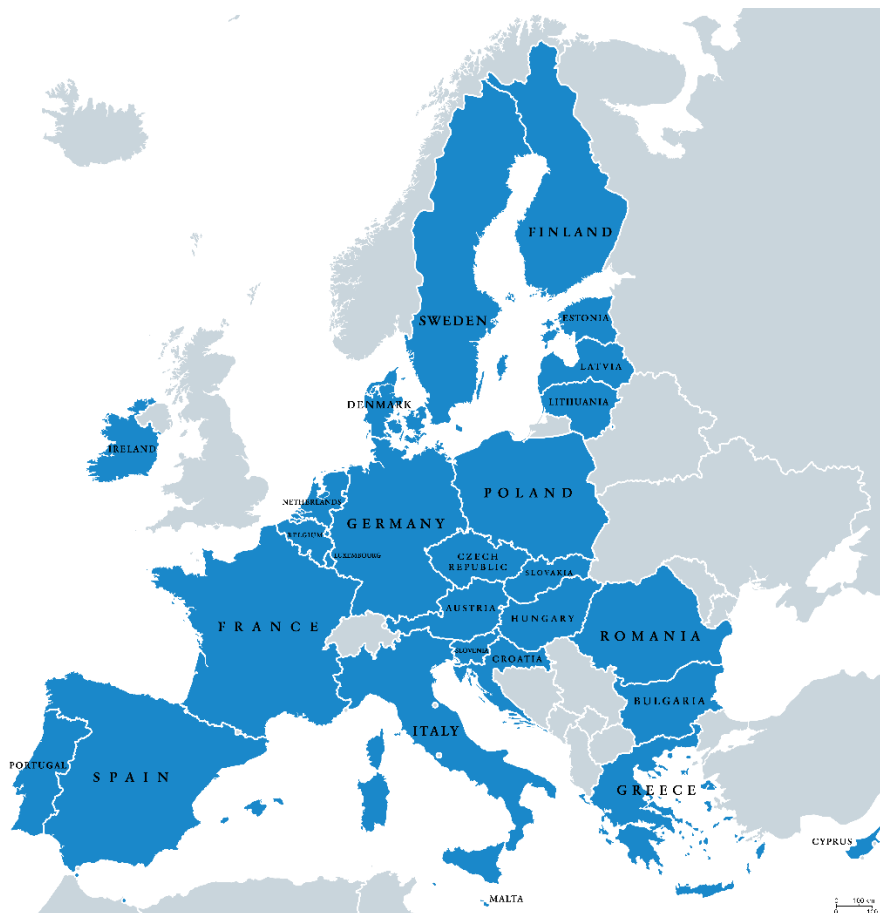
## Explanation of difficult words

Here you can find an explanation of difficult words that you will see in the text in **bold**.

You can always come back to this page to remember the explanation of these words.

### European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe. These countries came together to make things better, easier and safer for people.



### European Commission

The European Commission is the body of the European Union

that runs its day-to-day work.  
It takes actions and suggests laws  
for the European Union.  
The European Commission also takes actions  
to help persons with disabilities  
and protect their rights



## European Parliament

The European Parliament  
is a body of the European Union  
that is elected by people in the European Union.  
Together with the Council  
of the European Union,  
they discuss and decide which laws  
will happen in the European Union.



## Council of the European Union

The governments of all the countries  
of the European Union  
come together and make  
'the Council of the European Union'.  
Together with the European Parliament,  
they discuss and decide which laws  
will happen in Europe.



## UN Convention

'The UN Convention on the Rights  
of Persons with Disabilities' is an agreement  
that many countries in the world have signed.

It says persons with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. It also says how countries can protect these rights. In short, we call it 'the UN Convention' or 'the CRPD'.

The European Union and all its countries are part of the UN Convention. That means that they have agreed to work to make it happen and to protect the rights of all persons with disabilities.



## Strategy for Persons with Disabilities

This is the short name for 'the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030'. The Strategy for Persons with Disabilities is a plan that says how the European Commission will work to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in a period of 10 years. There was a strategy for 2010 – 2020 and now there is a new strategy for 2021 – 2030.



## European Accessibility Act

This is a law that the European Union made to make more things and services in Europe accessible for persons with disabilities. For example:

- Cash machines
- Computers
- Televisions
- Ticket machines



## European Disability Card

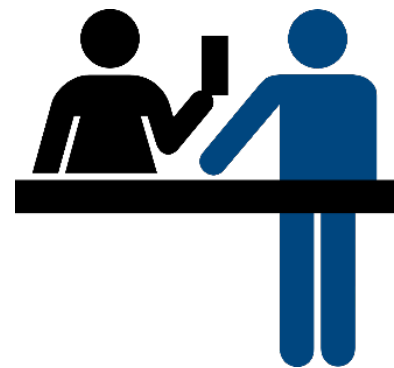
The European Disability Card could make things easier for persons with disabilities when they visit or live in another country of the European Union.

Thanks to this card, countries can recognise their disability and give them some advantages in culture, sports and other activities.

For example, persons with disabilities can use this card to pay less when they buy tickets for museums or football matches.

Or persons with intellectual disabilities can use this card and get information that is easy to read and understand.

For the moment, only a few countries in the European Union use this card.



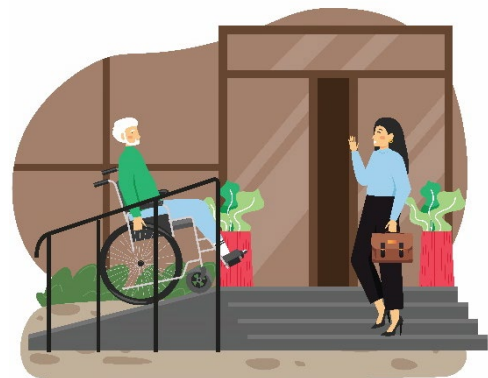
## Accessible

Things are accessible when they are possible to use by persons with disabilities and all people.

If things are not accessible, persons with disabilities can be left out.

For example:

- If buildings do not have ramps, people in wheelchairs could not get in.
- If telephones are not accessible, blind people will not be able to use them to communicate like everyone else.



- If information is not easy to read, persons with intellectual disabilities will not be able to understand it.

## Institutions

Institutions are places where some persons with disabilities live away from other people. People who live in institutions are left out of the community. They may not be able to make their own choices in life. Persons with disabilities have the right to make choices about their lives and be part of the community.



## Refugees

Refugees are people who leave their countries and their homes because it is not safe for them to live there anymore. For example, they may have war in their countries and their lives may be in danger. In recent years, many refugees have come to Europe hoping for a better life.



## What is the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities?

In March 2021,  
the **European Commission** put out  
a new 'Strategy  
for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
for 2021-2030'.

In short, we call it  
**'Strategy for Persons with Disabilities'**.

The Strategy for Persons with Disabilities is a plan  
that says how the European Commission will work  
to protect the rights of persons with disabilities  
in the next 10 years.



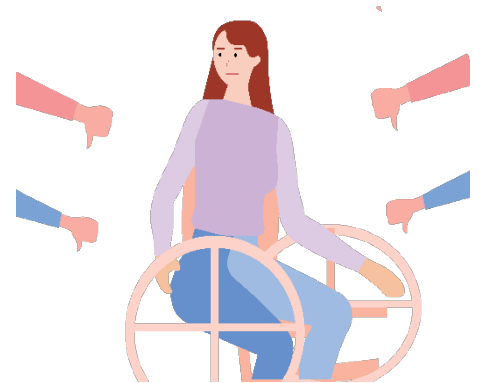
Sadly, many persons with disabilities in Europe  
do not have the same chances in life  
as other people.

Many things are not accessible to them.

They are often left out.

They may be treated badly or unfairly.

Things are harder for women with disabilities,  
persons with disabilities  
who live in **institutions**,  
and **refugees** with disabilities.



The European Commission  
made the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities  
to make sure that all persons with disabilities can enjoy their rights

and have the same chances in life as everyone else.

The Strategy for Persons with Disabilities says that in the next 10 years

the European Commission will continue to work hard to make things better for persons with disabilities.

Amongst others, the strategy says that the European Commission will work on these areas:



## 1. UN Convention

The European Union and all its countries are part of the **UN Convention**.

That means that they agreed to do what the UN Convention says to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.



In the coming years, the **European Commission** will continue to work with countries in the European Union to make the UN Convention happen in Europe and make sure that persons with disabilities can:

- Enjoy the same rights and chances in life as other people.
- Get the support they need to have a good life.
- Be treated fairly and with respect.
- Make their own choices about their lives.

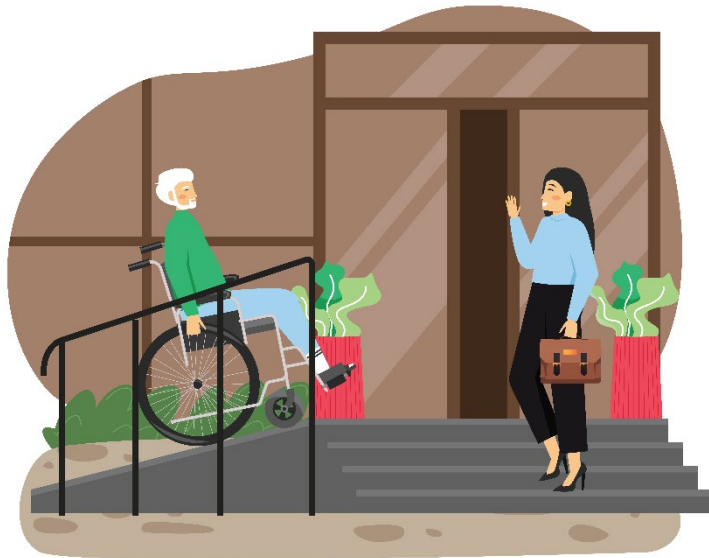
The European Commission will also work with other countries that are part to the UN Convention. This way they can learn from each other.





## 2. Accessibility

Accessibility is very important for persons with disabilities. If things are not **accessible** for them, they will not be able to take part in the community like other people. For example, if buildings and streets are not accessible, persons with disabilities will not be able to go around like other people.



The **European Union** has made laws to make things and services accessible to persons with disabilities. For example, it has made '**the European Accessibility Act**' to make some things and services in Europe accessible for all. It has also made laws to protect the rights of persons with disabilities when they travel.

Despite this good work, many things and services in Europe are still not accessible and persons with disabilities are left out.

In the coming years, the European Commission will work with all countries in the European Union to make sure they follow these laws and make things and services accessible for all people.

Also, by 2022, the **European Commission** will make a European centre for accessibility.

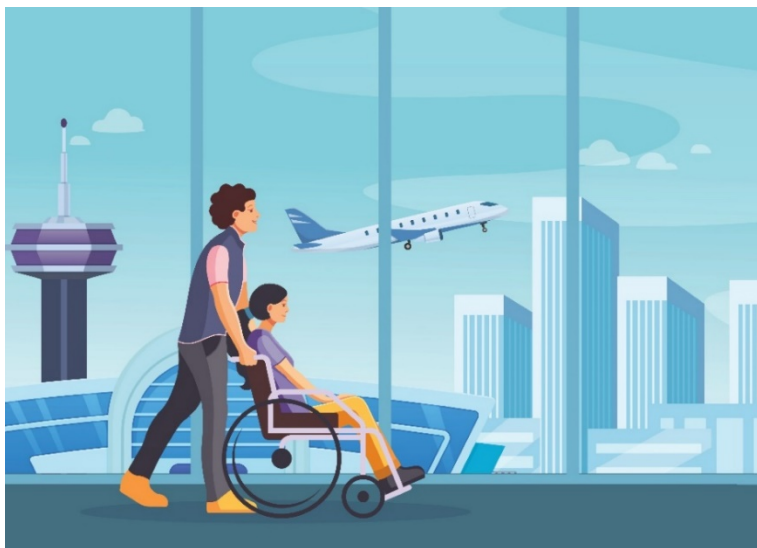
There:

- People who work on accessibility can share their knowledge and learn from each other.
- Countries in Europe can work together to make things accessible for persons with disabilities.

### 3. Free movement

Free movement means that all people in the **European Union** have the right to move, work, study and live in any country of the European Union.

For example, a German person can move to France to study or work.



Sadly, free movement is often hard or impossible for persons with disabilities.

Moving and living to another country of the European Union can be hard for them because:

- The new country may not recognise their disability.
- They may not get the support they need to live there.

In the coming years, the **European Commission** will work to help persons with disabilities

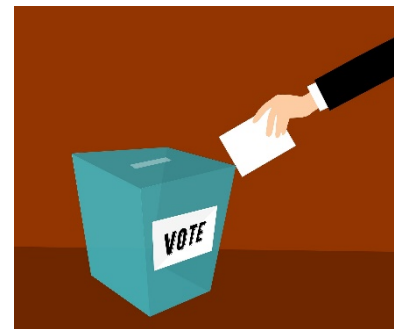
to enjoy the right to free movement too.  
It wants to make a strong '**European Disability Card**'  
that will make it easier  
to be recognised as persons with disabilities  
and have access to some things and benefits  
when they move to another country of the European Union.

#### 4. The right to vote

The right to vote is very important.  
All people in Europe  
should have the right to vote and choose  
who will make decisions and laws in Europe.

They should also have the right  
to stand for elections.

This means that other people can vote for them  
and choose them to make decisions in Europe.



Persons with disabilities should have this right too.  
Their voice counts just like everyone else's.

Sadly, some persons with disabilities in Europe cannot enjoy this right  
because things are not accessible for them.

Also, some persons with disabilities  
are not allowed to vote or stand for elections  
because they have a disability.

They cannot make decisions for themselves.

Someone else decides for them.

This is unfair.

In the coming years,  
the **European Commission** will work to make sure  
that persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote  
and stand for elections.



## 5. Independent living

Persons with disabilities have the right to live independently and make their own choices about their lives. For example, they have the right to decide where, how and with whom they want to live. Countries in Europe should make sure that all persons with disabilities enjoy this right.

Sadly, some persons with disabilities in Europe live in **institutions** away from the community.

They may not be able to make their own choices in life.



In the coming years,  
the **European Commission** will work closely  
with the countries in the **European Union**  
to make sure persons with disabilities  
get the right support to be able to:

- Live independently and not in institutions away from other people.
- Make their own decisions about their lives.
- Take part in the community like everyone else.



## 6. Access to work

Access to work means that all people should have the chance  
to work and earn their own money.

Sadly, too many persons with disabilities do not have work.

This may be because:

- Offices, streets, transport and other things are not **accessible**  
and persons with disabilities cannot use them like other people.
- Many persons with disabilities do not have the chance  
to take part in trainings and learn new skills  
that are necessary to get a job.

Without a job, persons with disabilities are more likely to be poor and left out.

In the coming years, the **European Commission** will work to make sure that persons with disabilities can:

- Take part in trainings and learn new skills.
- Get a job and be independent.



## 7. Access to justice

Access to justice means that people have the right to go to court when they feel they are treated badly or unfairly.

The court will hear their story and act to protect them.

Sadly, some persons with disabilities in Europe



do not have access to justice.  
Even if they are treated badly or unfairly,  
they may not be able to go to court and ask for help.

In the coming years,  
the **European Commission** will work to make sure  
that persons with disabilities have access to justice like other people.  
This way they can go to court and protect their rights  
when they are treated badly or unfairly.

## 8. Access to education

Access to education means that all people have the right  
to go to school and university, learn new things and grow their skills.



Sadly, many young persons with disabilities do not have the chance  
to finish school or go to university.  
Many things are not accessible for them  
and they may be left out.  
Often, children with disabilities have to go to special schools  
only for children with disabilities.  
They may not be allowed to go to school with all other children.

In the coming years,  
the **European Commission** will work  
with all countries in the **European Union**

to make sure that more children with disabilities can go to school together with all other children.

## 9. Access to health care

Access to health care means that people can go to the hospital, see a doctor and buy the medicine they need when they are sick.

Persons with disabilities have the right to get good health care like everyone else.

But often they cannot enjoy this right because health care may be too expensive or too far to reach. Also, hospitals and other things may be not accessible for them so they cannot visit them easily when they are sick.

In the coming years, the **European Commission** will work with the countries in the **European Union** to make sure that persons with disabilities have better access to good health care.



## 10. Access to art, sports and tourism

Many persons with disabilities are often left out from activities that have to do with art, sports or tourism.

For example, they may not be able to:



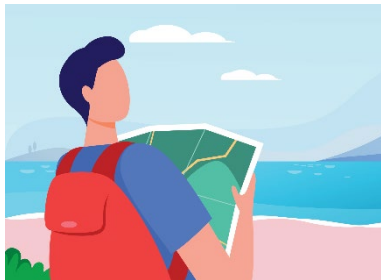
- Visit a museum.



- Play sports like basketball and tennis.



- Visit another place for holidays.



These activities help people to be part of the community together with other people. Persons with disabilities have the right to enjoy these activities too.

In the coming years, the **European Commission** will work to make these activities accessible to persons with disabilities. If these activities are accessible,

all persons with disabilities will be able to take part in them and be part of the community.

## 11. Work outside Europe

The **European Union** also works to help people in other countries of the world.

In some poor countries, people may not have basic things they need to live a good life.

For example, they may not have a job or enough food to feed their families.

Things are even harder for persons with disabilities who live in these countries.

They may not get the support they need to have a good life.



The European Union has made programmes to help these countries. It spends some of its money to help the people of these countries to have a better life.

In the coming years, the **European Commission** will try to make sure that the work it does in poorer countries of the world helps persons with disabilities too. Persons with disabilities should not be left behind.

## 12. Collecting important information

To help persons with disabilities, the **European Union** needs to collect some important information about them.

For example, it should know how many of them:

- Live in institutions.
- Are women.
- Have intellectual disabilities.



This way nobody will be forgotten or left behind.

In the coming years, the **European Commission** will try to collect this important information.

This way, it could better understand the situation of different persons with disabilities and give them the right help.

## How to make the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities happen

To make the **Strategy for Persons with Disabilities** happen and make things better for persons with disabilities:

- The **European Commission** will work together with all countries in the **European Union** to help their work on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The European Commission will work with all other bodies and offices of the European Union. For example, it will work with the **European Parliament** and **the Council of the European Union** to make sure that they take the needs of persons with disabilities into account when they make laws and decisions.
- The European Commission will work together with organisations of persons with disabilities. It will hear their views and will support their important work for the rights of persons with disabilities.



- The European Commission will make many of its things and services **accessible** for persons with disabilities. For example, it will work to make its buildings accessible and make more information in easy to read. It will also work to make it possible for more persons with disabilities to work in its offices.

In 2024, there will be a report about the work that the European Commission has done to make the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities happen. The report will say what things went well and what the European Commission could do better.



## More information

If you have questions about the Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, you can send us an email at: [EMPL-D3-UNIT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-D3-UNIT@ec.europa.eu).



This easy to read text is written by Lila Sylviti  
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You can find more information  
about easy to read at:  
[inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read/](https://inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read/).

