A new ambitious EU Disability Strategy for 2021-2030

Following Parliament’s recommendations, the European Commission adopted an ambitious post-2020 disability strategy. Discover its priorities.

The European Parliament called for an inclusive society in which the rights of people living with disabilities are protected and where there is no discrimination.

In March 2021, the Commission adopted the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 encompassing Parliament’s main recommendations:

• The mainstreaming of the rights of all people living with disabilities into all policies and areas
• Recovery and mitigation measures to avoid people with disabilities getting disproportionately affected by health crises such as Covid-19
• Equal access for people with disabilities to health care, employment, public transport, housing
• The implementation and further development of the EU disability card pilot project, which allows for the mutual recognition of disabilities in some EU countries
• People with disabilities, their families and organisations were part of the dialogue and will be part of the process of implementation

People living with disabilities in Europe: facts and figures

• There are an estimated 87 million people with disabilities in the EU

• The employment rate of people with disabilities (aged 20-64) stands at 50.8%, compared to 75% for people without disabilities

• 28.4% of people with disabilities in the EU are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, compared to 17.8% of the general population.
EU disability measures so far

The European Disability Strategy was put in place to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

• An international legally binding human rights treaty setting minimum standards to protect the rights of people with disabilities

• The EU and all member states have ratified it

• Both EU and member states are obliged to implement the obligations, according to their competences

Find out more

Procedural steps
Press release: stepping up EU action for an inclusive Europe (19 June 2020)
Resolution on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee (7 July 2016)
Briefing: the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020
Briefing: employment and disability in the EU (May 2020)
European Parliament’s CRPD Network
Parliament's employment committee
Briefing on the European Disability Policy: from defining disability to adopting a strategy