

Public consultation on the preparation of a new EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020

Meta Informations

Creation date

04-01-2010

Last update date

User name

null

Case Number

903180649041500410

Invitation Ref.

Status

N

GENERAL INFORMATION

Are you replying:

On behalf of an organisation

What type of organisation do you represent? Non-governmental organisation, including disability
NGO

What is the name of your organisation?

AGE-the European Older People's Platform

What is your Interest Representative Register ID, if applicable?

16549972091-86

Please give the contact e-mail address of your organisation

info@age-platform.org

1. WHAT SHOULD THE NEW EU DISABILITY STRATEGY COVER?

1.1 Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Persons with disabilities can participate in everyday activities as fully as other citizens strongly agree

Persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as other citizens strongly agree

Persons with disabilities face discrimination in their everyday activities because of their disabilities strongly agree

EU citizens with disabilities find it more difficult to move to another Member State than other EU citizens strongly agree

1.2 How important are the following problems for persons with disabilities?

Lack of access to built environment very important

Lack of access to transport very important

Lack of access to Internet and communication technologies very important

Lack of access to other customised goods and very important

services

Lack of equal opportunities in the labour market	very important
Lack of equal opportunities in education	very important
Lack of equal access to healthcare (doctors, hospitals etc.)	very important
Barriers to free movement within the EU	very important
Difficulty in living independently (for instance institutionalisation, lack of services in the community)	very important
Difficulty of participating in democratic and public life	very important
Difficulty of participating in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport	very important
Poverty and low income	very important
Mistreatment (such as abuse or neglect of liberty and dignity)	very important

1.3 Have you personally experienced any of the problems mentioned in Question 1.2? yes

2.1 Thematic areas: ACCESSIBILITY

2.1.1 How effective are the following measures in improving **accessibility** for the persons with disabilities?

Developing guidelines and standards to promote accessibility of: very effective

(1) the built environment

(2) transport very effective

(3) Internet and communication technologies very effective

(4) other goods and services very effective

Developing legislation to ensure accessibility of: very effective

(1) the built environment

(2) transport very effective

(3) Internet and communication technologies very effective

(4) other goods and services very effective

Funding for research on accessibility of: very effective

(1) the built environment

(2) transport very effective

(3) Internet and communication technologies very effective

(4) other goods and services very effective

Measuring accessibility of: very effective

(1) the built environment

(2) transport very effective

(3) Internet and communication technologies very effective

(4) other goods and services very effective

Providing know-how to support application of the "reasonable accommodation" principle very effective

Greater involvement of persons with disabilities in developing accessibility standards very effective

Increasing use of "universal design" or "design for all" very effective

Regular checks of accessibility of goods and services very effective

Increasing availability of assistive technologies very effective

Supporting the development of the assistive devices industry very effective

2.1.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to improving **accessibility** for persons with disabilities?

European Union much more

National government much more

Regional/local government much more

NGOs, including disability NGOs much more

Private sector much more

Other much more

2.1.3 If you choose "Other", please specify:

Consumers and older people's organisations

2.2 Thematic areas: EMPLOYMENT

2.2.1 How useful are the following to persons with disabilities in seeking **employment**:

Providing training to job-seekers with disabilities very useful

More and better labour market support services very useful

Raising awareness of the potential of persons with disabilities among employers very useful

Promoting opportunities for self-employment useful

Increasing accessibility of workplaces very useful

Providing assistive technologies very useful

Better accessibility of standard technologies and digital content very useful

Fighting discrimination related to recruitment, employment and career advancement very useful

Enforcing the obligation to make reasonable accommodation for disabled persons at the workplace very useful

Reducing financial risks for persons with disabilities entering or leaving the labour market very useful

2.2.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to increasing **employment** of persons with disabilities?

European Union much more

National government much more

Regional/local government	much more
NGOs, including disability NGOs	much more
Private sector	much more
Other	much more

2.2.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

Social partners at EU, national and branch levels

2.3 Thematic areas: EDUCATION

2.3.1 How much will the following improve equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in **education** and training?

Increasing human and financial resources to bring students with disabilities into the general and higher education system very much

Facilitating mechanisms for students with disabilities to move from special to general education very much

Providing specific training for teachers to accommodate students with disabilities in their classrooms very much

Providing scholarships and grants for persons with disabilities very much

Increasing the availability of accessible learning material, including electronic material and assistive technologies very much

Increasing the accessibility of educational buildings very much

Awareness-raising activities in the general education system to increase social acceptance and understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities very much

Adapting adult education and training programmes to the needs of persons with disabilities very much

2.3.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities in **education** enjoy equal opportunities?

European Union	much more
National government	much more
Regional/local government	much more
NGOs, including disability NGOs	much more
Private sector	much more
Other	much more

2.3.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

LLL and older people's organisations

2.4 Thematic areas: HEALTHCARE

2.4.1 How much will the following improve equal access to **healthcare** for persons with disabilities?

Providing training for health professionals on health needs of persons with disabilities clearly

(2) increasing provision of community-based services very much

(3) increasing access to assistive technologies that can support the disabled to live independently very much

Developing action plans to close down residential institutions clearly

Retraining and requalification of staff working in institutions to provide them with skills for community-based care very much

Setting minimum quality standards for care services very much

Providing persons with disabilities with personal budgets very much

Awareness-raising activities to make the right of people with disabilities to live in the community more socially acceptable very much

2.6.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to **live independently**?

European Union much more

National government much more

Regional/local government much more

NGOs, including disability NGOs much more

Private sector much more

Other much more

2.6.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

Older people's organisations

2.7 Thematic areas: PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC AND PUBLIC LIFE

2.7.1 How useful are the following in enabling persons with disabilities to **participate in democratic and public life**?

Providing policy-related information in accessible formats very useful

Ensuring elections and voting, including related material, are fully accessible very useful

Media action to improve the image of persons with disabilities very useful

Providing support to disability NGOs very useful

2.7.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to **participate in democratic and public life**?

European Commission much more

National government much more

Regional/local government much more

Disability NGOs much more

Industry much more

Other much more

2.7.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

Older people's organisations

2.8 Thematic areas: CULTURE, RECREATION, LEISURE, SPORT

2.8.1 How useful are the following in enabling persons with disabilities to participate in **cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport?**

Providing cultural material and programmes in accessible formats very useful

Ensuring that cultural venues and monuments and sites of cultural value are accessible very useful

Supporting the development of creative activities for persons with disabilities very useful

Providing funding to address disability issues in sports very useful

Ensuring that sports-related facilities are accessible very useful

Ensuring that sports staff concerned are trained in disability issues very useful

2.8.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy the right to participate in **cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport?**

European Union much more

National government much more

Regional/local government much more

NGOs, including disability NGOs much more

Private sector much more

Other much more

2.8.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

Sport, cultural and older people's organisations

2.9 Thematic areas: STANDARDS OF LIVING AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

2.9.1 How useful are the following to ensuring persons with disabilities enjoy an adequate **standard of living and social protection?**

Expanding job opportunities very useful

Compensating for extra costs and burdens caused by disability in everyday life very useful

Providing adequate disability pensions very useful

Measuring the situation of persons with disabilities when gathering data on the groups most vulnerable to poverty very useful

Expanding public housing opportunities for persons with disabilities very useful

2.9.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to ensuring adequate **standards of living and social protection?**

European Union much more

National government much more

Regional/local government much more

NGOs, including disability NGOs	much more
Private sector	much more
Other	much more

2.9.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

Older people's organisations

2.10 Thematic areas: FREEDOM AND DIGNITY

2.10.1 How useful are the following in guaranteeing **freedom and dignity** for persons with disabilities?

Developing legislation to ensure persons with disabilities have full legal capacity very useful

Supporting people with disabilities in decision-making (e.g. in financial transactions and medical treatment options) by: very useful

(1) developing legislation

(2) developing practical tools very useful

Preventing violence, ill-treatment and abuse of persons with disabilities by: very useful

(1) developing legislation (e.g. criminal law)

(2) developing practical tools (e.g. supporting services, training for families and formal carers) very useful

Monitoring relevant legal practice in the Member States very useful

Raising awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities very useful

2.10.2 Compared to now, how much should the following contribute to guaranteeing **freedom and dignity** for persons with disabilities?

European Union much more

National government much more

Regional/local government much more

NGOs, including disability NGOs much more

Private sector much more

Other much more

2.10.3 If you choose "Other", please specify

Older people's organisations

3. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

How important are the following to the coordination and management of disability policies? ?

Assigning clear political responsibility for disability at all governance levels very important

Identifying a lead office for disability issues very important

Developing communication and cooperation mechanisms between different actors (EU, national and local governments, civil society) very important

Establishing indicators and targets to measure improvements in the situation of persons with very important

disabilities

Assessing the impact of new policies on persons with disabilities	very important
Harmonising rules and standards for accessible goods and services	very important
Increasing financial support for disability matters	very important
Identifying resources dedicated to disability purposes within funding schemes more clearly	very important
Developing strategies for communication and awareness-raising on disability issues	very important
Harmonising definitions of disability in the EU	very important
Improving the stability of disability objectives in agenda-setting	very important
Improving possibilities of legal recourse for persons with disabilities	very important

4. THE ROLE OF THE EU

How suitable would the following be in meeting disability-related objectives at EU level?

Adopting European legislation, which harmonises disability-related objectives across the Member States	very suitable
Setting targets and indicators to compare Member State performance	suitable
Monitoring and evaluating the situation of persons with disabilities (including collection of statistics and research projects)	very suitable
Helping the Member States to exchange information and best practice	very suitable
Providing financial support to disability NGOs	very suitable
Providing financial support to local projects on disability-related issues	very suitable
Supporting research and development programmes and studies	very suitable
Developing information and publicity and acceptance campaigns	suitable
Ensuring that goods and services purchased by public authorities and infrastructure built for the public are more usable by and accessible to persons with disabilities	very suitable
Which of these three statements is closest to your view on how the EU should work on disability issues:	Both approaches should be used in combination

5. ANY OTHER REMARKS

If you have any remarks that you have not been able to make while answering the questions, please put them here (maximum 1500 characters):

With the rapid ageing of the population, the number of citizens with disabilities will increase. We strongly recommend that the new EU Disability Strategy takes on board the needs of older people, in particular the fast growing number of very old and frail elderly, and promotes the concept of Design for All. Accessibility is of utmost importance to older people, in particular older persons with disabilities and the very old and frail elderly and so is affordability. If the concept of Design for all is developed throughout the EU and applied to all goods and services provided by public and private entities, people with disabilities and older people will face much fewer barriers to participation/independent living and their needs in terms of staff intensive support services will decrease.

- AGE calls for EU legislation to ensure accessibility of roads + services - in part in ICT - websites, mobile phone

- Policy Strategy, very positive

- probably a disability funds