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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**Mid-term report on the implementation of the Union of Equality strategy for the rights
of persons with disabilities 2021-2030**

Accompanying the document

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

Enhancing the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2021-2030 Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ('the strategy') was adopted in March 2021. The strategy contributes to building a Union of Equality. It supports the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD) and the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (EPSR).

The strategy focuses on eight key areas where further progress was identified as necessary, namely: (1) accessibility; (2) enjoying EU rights; (3) decent quality of life and living independently; (4) equal access and non-discrimination; (5) promoting the rights of persons with disabilities globally; (6) efficiently delivering the strategy; (7) leading by example; and (8) awareness, governance and measuring progress.

The strategy includes 64 main measures, including seven flagship initiatives to be implemented by the Commission, that reflect a 'whole-of-government' and whole-of-society approach involving a wide range of services and ensuring the mainstreaming of disability across policy areas. It also suggests measures that EU Member States should take in diverse areas.

To achieve the strategy's goals, coordinated action across EU, national, local, and regional levels is essential. The strategy urges EU institutions, Member States, and local authorities to integrate the needs of persons with disabilities in all policy and action design, implementation, and monitoring. All EU Member States have ratified the UNCRPD and are bound to implement its provisions domestically.

EU funds support actions under the strategy aimed at enhancing the life for persons with disabilities and EU-level organisations active in this field, while also ensuring that Member States establish frameworks for UNCRPD implementation.

The strategy has been well received by other EU institutions, bodies and stakeholders. It is consistent with many [resolutions](#) on the rights of people of disabilities that the European Parliament has adopted over the years, in particular the [most recent one of 2025](#), calling for renewed efforts in this area. The Council endorsed the strategy as a comprehensive and ambitious framework in its Conclusions of May 2021, and the Council has further supported the objectives of the strategy through Council conclusions on employment (in 2022 and 2024) and on independent living (in 2025). Furthermore, '[La Hulpe Declaration](#)', signed in 2024, called for the disability perspective to be mainstreamed in all EU policies and for the development of an ambitious second phase of the strategy.

The EU is a party to the UNCRPD and therefore reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the progress made in implementing the UNCRPD. The second review of the EU's implementation of the UNCRPD was held on 11-12 March 2025. Following the review, the UN Committee issued its concluding observations to the EU along with recommendations on how to advance the

implementation of the UNCRPD. The recommendations of the UN Committee have been taken into account when updating the Strategy.

This report presents the progress made in the first five years (2021-2025) of the strategy's implementation, including the measures taken by the Member States. It is based on feedback from Member States and civil society organisations on progress made. Section 2 of this report presents an overview of the situation of persons with disabilities in the EU. Section 3 presents the most notable achievements at EU and national level, by areas of action listed in the Strategy. An annex presents an overview of disability-related legislation at EU level, showing how it has evolved since 2017. In conjunction with the present report, the [scoreboard](#) published by the Commission tracks progress for each action put forward in the strategy.

The EU and its Member States have put forward a range of ambitious measures, but further progress is still needed to ensure these efforts lead to tangible improvements in the lives of persons with disabilities. Changing the situation of persons with disabilities will require the stepping-up of national, regional and local measures, alongside enhanced support at EU level. EU action alone cannot fully address the persistent and, in some cases, evolving challenges in areas such as poverty, education, employment, independent living, political participation and accessibility.

2. SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE EU

Around **90 million people** aged 16 years or over in the EU have some form of disability. This represented 23.9% of the EU's population in 2024. Almost a quarter of this group has reported severe disabilities (6.7% of the EU population) ⁽¹⁾. The number of persons with disabilities in the EU is expected to grow because the population is ageing and because more people have chronic diseases ⁽²⁾.

Despite the efforts made at global, EU and national levels by the relevant authorities and civil society, the situation of persons with disabilities remains challenging. They continue to face a number of barriers in different spheres of life, such as employment, education, health, care, leisure and social activities.

Every person of working age, whether fully able or not, should be given an opportunity to work. However, in terms of **employment**, only 54.6% of persons with disabilities and of working age (20-64) were employed in 2023 (compared with 72.4% for persons without disabilities of working age). The disability employment gap

(1) Source: [Eurostat online database](#) (hlth_silc_07). Disability at EU level is measured by the [Global Activity Limitation Indicator \(GALI\)](#).

(2) The prevalence of disability rises with age: the share of people aged 16-24 years who reported a disability was 7.1% within the EU, while for those aged 85 years or over was 72.3%.

remains large, with no significant changes observed in recent years ⁽³⁾. This gap is driven by multiple factors, some of which are being addressed in the Strategy and its related employment package. Moreover, a number of persons with disabilities remain in sheltered employment, and do not always have access to quality jobs or opportunities to transition to the open labour market ⁽⁴⁾.

Having the right **skills and qualifications** is a prerequisite for accessing and succeeding in the labour market. However, persons with disabilities are still at a higher risk of becoming early school leavers (24.6% compared to 8.0% for persons without disabilities among those aged 18-24 years, according to data from 2024). They are also less likely to complete tertiary education (30.0% of persons with disabilities aged 25-34 years compared with 45.9% of persons without disabilities in 2024) ⁽⁵⁾

Difficulties in accessing inclusive education and participating fully in the labour market can also lead to further vulnerabilities. In 2024, 28.7% of persons with disabilities were at **risk of poverty or social exclusion** (compared with 17.9% of persons without disabilities) ⁽⁶⁾. This proportion has only slightly improved over the last decade (30.4% in 2015 and 29.7% in 2021).

Furthermore, despite an overall improvement in access to health and care services, persons with disabilities continue to report unmet **healthcare** needs. For example, in 2024, 5% of the population aged 16 or over with disabilities reported unmet medical needs due to financial constraints, long waiting times or long distance to travel (7.5% in 2015 and 4.6% in 2021). The corresponding figure for persons without disabilities was 1.6% (1.8% in 2015 and 1.1% in 2021) ⁽⁷⁾.

Persons with disabilities have the **right to independent living and inclusion in the community**. However, **1.4 million** children and adults with disabilities currently live in **institutions** in the EU, despite most Member States having adopted deinstitutionalisation strategies ⁽⁸⁾. Persons with disabilities (particularly persons with intellectual disabilities) often face barriers to exercising their rights to choose and to make decisions over their lives, especially in systems of guardianship or other systems **limiting their legal capacity**.

(3) Source: Eurostat (hlth_dlm200). The difference between the employment rate of persons aged 20-64 years with and without disabilities amounted to 24 percentage points in 2024, Source: Eurostat .

(4) European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation and Grammenos, S., *European comparative data on persons with disabilities – Equal opportunities, fair working conditions, social protection and inclusion, analysis and trends – Data 2023*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2838/1081556>

(5) [\[edat_lfs_9920\] Population in private households by educational attainment level and level of disability \(activity limitation\)](#)

(6) Eurostat. https://doi.org/10.2908/HLTH_DPE010.

(7) Eurostat. https://doi.org/10.2908/HLTH_DH030.

(8) Eurofound, Paths towards independent living and social inclusion in Europe, 2024.

Persons with disabilities are more likely to experience **violence and abuse**, both in their home environment and in institutions. This is particularly the case for women, older persons and children with disabilities. For instance, women with severe disabilities are more likely to experience physical or sexual violence than those without disabilities (46% compared with 28%) ⁽⁹⁾.

Many Member States have made it easier for persons with disabilities to fully participate in **elections**, yet several barriers remain when it comes to voting and standing as a candidate in elections ⁽¹⁰⁾. Election observers reported that participation by persons with disabilities improved in the 2024 elections for the European Parliament. This was thanks, in part, to the use of alternative voting methods (such as postal voting or mobile ballot boxes), better polling station accessibility and improved ballot readability ⁽¹¹⁾.

3. PROGRESS IN THE AREAS FOR ACTION

The strategy's eight thematic areas for action envisage specific objectives to be achieved by the Commission (in cooperation with other EU institutions), which are to be supplemented by measures at national or regional level. The following points provide information on some of the most significant achievements to date.

3.1. Accessibility

The strategy attaches the greatest importance to accessibility – as an enabler of the rights of persons with disabilities and a prerequisite for their full participation in society and in the economy on an equal basis with others. It is crucial to remove and prevent barriers to build and virtual environments, information and communication technologies, and goods and services (including transport and infrastructures).

Over the last decade, the EU has adopted several rules to ensure the accessibility of key products and services ⁽¹²⁾. Since 2020, the Commission has adopted numerous legal acts with accessibility requirements (e.g. the AI Regulation, the Digital Wallet Directive and the Equality Bodies Directive) and has worked on ensuring that the relevant legislative acts are being correctly implemented, transposed and (where necessary) revised.

⁽⁹⁾ European Parliament resolution of 29 November 2018 on the situation of women with disabilities ([2018/2685\(RSP\)](#)). Eurostat, online database ([gbv any lim](#)).

⁽¹⁰⁾ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#), 'More people with disabilities can vote but barriers remain', 2024

⁽¹¹⁾ Commission Staff Working Document, '[Report on the 2024 elections](#) to the European Parliament', 2025, SWD(2025)147 final.

⁽¹²⁾ E.g. The European Accessibility Act ([Directive 2019/882](#)), the Web Accessibility Directive ([Directive 2016/2102](#)), the Electronic Communications Code ([Directive 2018/1972](#)), the Audiovisual Media Services Directive ([Directive 2018/1808](#)), the accessibility requirements in EU rules on public procurement (Directives [2014/24](#) and [2014/25](#)).

To support the implementation of accessibility legislation, the strategy provided for the launch of AccessibleEU, an EU accessibility support centre.

Flagship initiative:

In 2022, the Commission launched [AccessibleEU](#), an EU-wide resource centre for accessibility. The centre brings together national authorities that implement and enforce accessibility rules, as well as experts and representatives of industry and civil society, to share good practices on accessibility, to provide training and to support the development of tools and standards to facilitate the implementation of EU law in this area.

Key facts and figures:

- over 5 104 members gathered in a dynamic LinkedIn group (AccessibleEU Centre); 269 events organised so far at either the EU or the national level, on topics such as accessibility of the built environment, transport, ICT.
- a digital library of over 452 good practices and 395 references on accessibility; six guides and one study published so far to support the implementation of accessibility in spaces, products and services ⁽¹³⁾.
- a broad accessibility monitoring framework established through AccessibleEU to support harmonised data collection across the EU ⁽¹⁴⁾.

European accessibility legislation

- Member States were required to transpose the **European Accessibility Act** (EEA) ⁽¹⁵⁾ into their national legislation by June 2022. Since June 2025, they have been required to apply these national laws and economic operators to ensure the placing on the market of accessible products and services.
- The Commission supported the EEA's transposition with regular transposition meetings ⁽¹⁹⁾, as well as bilateral meetings with Member States, where it facilitated compliance with the related requirements and highlighted opportunities provided by exchanges of practices. The Commission also

⁽¹³⁾ E.g. Accessibility Legislation at European Level, Accessibility of the Built Environment in the European Union, Accessible Public Transport in the EU, Digital Accessibility.

⁽¹⁴⁾ It published annual indicator results based on data collected from each Member States.

⁽¹⁵⁾ The European Accessibility Act sets EU-wide accessibility requirements for certain key digitally relevant products and services, identified as being the most important for persons with disabilities, and the most likely to have diverging accessibility requirements across EU Member States. e.g. computers; ATMs; ticketing and check-in machines; smartphones; services related to air, bus, rail and waterborne passenger transport; banking services and e-commerce. Directive (EU) 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services

opened several infringement procedures to monitor and to support compliance of national legislation with the EAA ⁽¹⁶⁾.

- The Commission has further supported the EAA's implementation by issuing [standardisation request M587 to the European Standardisation Organisations \(ESOs\)](#). This request asks for the revision of three existing standards (in the areas of ICT, built environment and design for all); and the development of new standards for emergency communications, non-digital information and support services.

Accessibility and public administrations

- In May 2021, the Commission released a new ['buying social' guide](#) to take account of social considerations in public procurement, including social inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- In December 2022, the Commission published its [evaluation of the Web Accessibility Directive](#), identifying some gaps such as a shortage of digital accessibility expertise in many Member States.

Accessibility of transport

- Since January 2022, the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), together with different stakeholders in the railway sector at EU level, has been collecting and exchanging information on the accessibility of train stations. The European Railway Station Accessibility Database will be open to the public to provide accessibility information about railway stations in Europe ⁽¹⁷⁾.
- In March 2023, the Commission adopted the [Commission Recommendation on National Support Programmes for Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning](#). This includes specific goals and objectives to support the development of an urban transport system that takes accessibility aspects into account.
- Following the [review of the passenger rights regulatory framework](#), the Commission adopted in November 2023 two legislative proposals to address remaining gaps in the current **passenger rights framework** ⁽¹⁸⁾, under negotiations. This includes strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility in transport by air, water, bus and coach.

⁽¹⁶⁾ [Infringements](#)

⁽¹⁷⁾ The ERA integrated the technical requirements for the provision of data feeding this database into its January 2022 recommendation on Regulation (EU) 454/2011 (TAP TSI). The revision of [TAP TSI](#) is ongoing.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Enforcement Omnibus (COM(2023)753) and COM(2023)752.

- In June 2024, the co-legislators adopted the revised [Regulation](#) on Union guidelines for the development of the **trans-European transport network**. The regulation includes measures to improve accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities and reduced mobility.
- The [Driving Licence Directive](#) adopted in 2025 contains provisions to make driving licences for certain types of vehicles more accessible for persons with disabilities.

Accessibility and the green transition

- The Commission is aligning the information on the website on **EU energy labels** with the accessibility requirements of the European Accessibility Act, ensuring that product information, such as labels on appliances, is perceivable, operable and understandable for persons with disabilities in line with EU accessibility standards.
- The [Renovation Wave Communication](#) emphasises that pairing energy efficiency with accessibility in building renovations enhances usability, sustainability, and social inclusion, especially for an ageing population. It also highlights that professionals require training to improve accessibility in renovations.
- **The [New European Bauhaus](#)** (NEB) initiative provides practical solutions for the transformation of the built environment and lifestyles, with a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, high-quality design and a people-centred approach. Its [investment guidelines](#), published in 2023, set out criteria and recommendations to help public and private investors integrate the three NEB values into projects, including guidance on ensuring accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- The [recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) includes provisions on accessibility in relation to new and existing buildings, guidance and training, and recharging points for electric vehicles. Implementation is monitored through **national building renovation plans**, identifying good practices to mainstream accessibility and disability rights across EU renovation policies.

Remaining challenges to address

Despite a robust legal framework, implementation gaps persist, compliance remains uneven, and accessibility in transport, housing, and digital services requires further strengthening. While the legal foundations are in place, enforcement, monitoring, and practical application remain key challenges, particularly in ensuring that accessibility is not just a legal obligation but a lived reality for persons with disabilities across the EU.

The Commission is continuing to work with all stakeholders to develop the applicable harmonised standards and other means of facilitating compliance with the accessibility requirements of the European Accessibility Act. A working group will provide a forum for exchanges and knowledge-creation on the enforcement and application of accessibility requirements.

3.2. Enjoying EU rights

Moving and residing freely

EU citizens have the right to move and reside freely within the EU and to access services in all Member States. However, the strategy acknowledges that persons with disabilities face practical barriers when exercising these rights, due to the absence of mutual recognition of disability status between Member States. Another obstacle they face is the inability to use their national parking card across Member States, because of the differences in the implementation and format of national cards. The Commission has responded by proposing, in 2023, the introduction of a European Disability Card and a European Parking Card, based on common EU templates and mutual recognition of national cards. Following the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/2841 the two cards will reach persons with disabilities in the EU in June 2028.

Flagship initiative:

Directive (EU) 2024/2841 establishing the [European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities](#) came into effect on 4 December 2024, facilitating the free movement of persons with disabilities during a short stay in another EU Member State. When travelling in the EU, cardholders will be granted access to special conditions and preferential treatment for a wide variety of services, activities and facilities offered to residents with disabilities. Member States may also decide to apply the Directive's provisions for periods longer than a short stay. Directive (EU) 2024/2842 extends the scope of Directive (EU) 2024/2841 to [non-EU nationals legally residing in a Member State](#).

Remaining challenges to address

Member States have until 5 June 2027 to adopt and publish the laws and administrative provisions to comply with the Directive. Member States are to apply those measures as from 5 June 2028. By 5 June 2029, the Commission must carry out an assessment on any remaining gaps relating to the free movement of persons with disabilities.

Fostering participation in the democratic process

- The Commission issued a [Recommendation on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union](#) in 2023. Its aims include promoting inclusive participation of underrepresented parts of the electorate (including persons with disabilities) and making it easier for them to exercise their electoral rights, both as voters and candidates.
- The Commission published the [Citizenship Package](#) in 2023, which includes the **Guide of good electoral practices addressing participation of citizens with disabilities** and identifies common approaches to accessible elections. It also published the [Compendium on e-voting](#), highlighting the use of digital tools to support democratic participation, including accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- In 2025, the Council adopted a [Directive to simplify voting and candidacy rules for EU citizens living in a country where they are not nationals](#). This requires electoral information to be accessible and calls for voting arrangements that take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and older persons to ensure inclusive participation.
- The Commission adopted a [report on the 2024 elections to the European Parliament](#), noting improved participation by persons with disabilities due to alternative voting measures, better polling station accessibility, and improved ballot readability.

Remaining challenges to address

The participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes has improved in recent years. However, some challenges persist, including barriers to voting posed by the ongoing digitalisation of electoral processes. In addition, persons with disabilities remain markedly underrepresented, both as candidates and as elected officials (e.g. only three Members of the European Parliament have declared that they have a disability). Legal restrictions linked to the blanket removal of legal capacity continue to prevent some persons with intellectual disabilities from exercising their right to vote without individual assessment and possibility of judicial review.

3.3. Decent quality of life and living independently

Developing independent living and reinforcing community-based services

The right to independent living and personal autonomy, i.e. the right of persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live and to participate in the community on an equal footing with others, is a key theme of the strategy. The Commission has committed to supporting, e.g. through EU funding, national, regional and local authorities in their efforts to deinstitutionalise care and support systems for persons with disabilities, develop person-centred services and support independent living.

Flagship initiative:

In November 2024, the Commission adopted the [Notice Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding](#). The guidance illustrates the approaches reflected in EU fund regulations and provides concrete examples of the types of measures that can be supported with shared management funds (particularly the ESF+ and ERDF). To complement the guidance, work has been carried out within a dedicated subgroup of the Disability Platform to develop a **framework for social services of excellence for persons with disabilities**. The Commission discussed principles of such a framework with the Council's Social Protection Committee in 2024 and is aligning the work with the planned revision of the voluntary quality framework for social services.

Measures taken by the Member States

Member States have reported on a variety of measures in the area of deinstitutionalisation, supported by EU funding. These include: (i) developing **deinstitutionalisation strategies** or similar ⁽¹⁹⁾; (ii) proposing a relevant legislative framework or establishment of **personal assistance services** ⁽²⁰⁾; (iii) measures that specifically **target children** to avoid their placement in institutional care ⁽²¹⁾; (iv) measures to establish **alternative housing** ⁽²²⁾; and (v) measures specific to **psychiatric care** ⁽²³⁾. In addition, Member States have also made progress to ensure accessible and disability-inclusive social housing, although no data are available on the supply of accessible housing ⁽²⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Austria, Slovenia Slovakia.

⁽²⁰⁾ Greece, France, Croatia, Italy, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia.

⁽²¹⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden.

⁽²²⁾ Belgium, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Austria.

⁽²³⁾ Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Croatia, Malta, Slovakia and Sweden.

⁽²⁴⁾ Eurofound, '[Paths towards independent living and social inclusion in Europe](#)', 2024. |

Remaining challenges to address

Most Member States have adopted deinstitutionalisation strategies over the last decade, though progress in promoting independent living and inclusion in the community remains slow and uneven. The guidance on independent living identifies good practices for stakeholders involved in deinstitutionalisation strategies and EU-funded projects. However, significant work still remains to be done to translate these examples into consistent improvements on the ground. To achieve wider uptake and effective implementation, strengthened mutual learning activities and capacity-building measures are necessary. Monitoring tools, clear targets and indicators could be further developed to guide the structural reforms needed and related investments.

Fostering access to high-quality and sustainable jobs

The strategy recognises that employment enables social inclusion and economic autonomy for persons with disabilities, though their situation in the labour market has not significantly improved over the last decade. To address this issue, the Commission has developed policy measures, under the Disability Employment Package, supporting better employment outcomes for person with disabilities.

Flagship initiative:

To support Member States in ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy social inclusion and economic autonomy through employment, the Commission adopted the [Disability Employment Package](#) in 2022. The package provides guidance and examples for employers, employers' associations, public authorities, civil society and persons with disabilities with a view to increasing the employment of persons with disabilities. It covers all stages of employment, from recruitment to retention in employment or return to work. The package has been rolled out jointly with EU and national stakeholders through the Disability Platform.

The [package's key deliverables](#) include: guidelines on reasonable accommodation at work, a practitioner toolkit on strengthening public employment services to improve the labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities; a catalogue of positive measures to encourage the hiring of persons with disabilities and combating stereotypes; a [manual](#) for managing chronic diseases and preventing the risk of acquiring disabilities; [guidelines](#) for effective vocational rehabilitation schemes; and a [study](#) on alternative employment models for persons with disabilities ⁽²⁵⁾.

⁽²⁵⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Empirica and Sozialhelden e.v, 'Study on alternative employment models for persons with disabilities – Set-up, working conditions and pathways to the open labour market in inclusive enterprises and

Since 2021, measures have been taken at EU level in several other areas.

- Published in March 2021, the [Commission's report on the Employment Equality Directive](#) highlights the Directive's key impact on persons with disabilities. In particular, it stresses the obligation for employers to provide reasonable accommodation in employment and training and, showcases good practices and relevant case law developments on reasonable accommodation and disability by association.
- In June 2021, the Commission adopted the [Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027](#). The framework establishes key priorities and measures for improving workplace health and safety. It pays specific attention to protecting vulnerable groups, including workers with disabilities.
- In December 2021, the Commission presented the [Action Plan on the Social Economy](#) (reviewed in 2026), which also supports the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, independent living services and job opportunities. Its implementation included the [Council Recommendation](#) on social economy framework conditions that was adopted in November 2023.
- In May 2024, **two directives to strengthen the role of equality bodies** were adopted ⁽²⁶⁾ ⁽²⁷⁾. These include provisions to ensure that persons with disabilities can access these bodies' services and information, particularly in the areas of employment and occupation.
- In 2024, the Commission presented a [proposal for a Directive and a revised Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships](#), aiming to improve the quality, fairness, and accessibility of traineeships, including for persons with disabilities, enabling work experience and skill development in an inclusive environment.

Measures taken by the Member States

- Several Member States have set up **quantitative national employment targets** for persons with disabilities. Currently 14 Member State have set up national employment targets for persons with disabilities ⁽²⁸⁾. Most of them aim at achieving a certain level of employment of persons with disabilities expressed as a percentage of their total population (between 38% and 60%), some aim at

sheltered workshops – Final report', Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/5824702>

⁽²⁶⁾ [Council Directive \(EU\) 2024/1499 of 7 May 2024 on standards ...](#)

⁽²⁷⁾ [Directive - 2024/1500 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

⁽²⁸⁾ Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain

reducing disability employment gap, while other aim at employment of a certain number of persons with disabilities or at creation of jobs for persons with disabilities.

- The **role of employment services** has been strengthened by e.g. partnerships with foundations / specialised employment institutions that promote the employment of persons with disabilities, offering services exclusively targeted to persons with disabilities or working with a support person and peer support ⁽²⁹⁾.
- Other measures include training programmes; entitlement to unemployment benefits; provision of free advice to start-up entrepreneurs; and the simplification of the procedure for starting a self-employed activity for persons with disabilities ⁽³⁰⁾.

In the area of **vocational education and training (VET) as well**, Member States have reported on the adoption of a variety of measures, including: development of a strategy/vision for participation in learning; special support measures for persons with disabilities in training; measures aimed at improving the financial situation of persons with disabilities; and measures aimed at improving access to assistive technologies and ICT for persons with disabilities.

Remaining challenges to address

The overall progress made in increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities is limited and the disability employment gap remains large. The development of the Disability Employment Package has enabled the Commission experts and stakeholders to identify effective measures and examples to improve the access of persons with disabilities to the labour market. The remaining priority is to ensure the large-scale dissemination and implementation of the guidelines, coupled with efforts to tangibly increase the employment participation of persons with disabilities.

Consolidating social protection systems

- In December 2022, the Commission published a [synthesis report on 'social protection for people with disabilities'](#), prepared by the European Social Policy Network, describing and analysing the provision of certain disability specific income support and of selected support services as well as highlighting the EU's role in supporting mutual learning and sharing in this area.

⁽²⁹⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden.

⁽³⁰⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, France, Cyprus, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

- The Commission provided guidance and support for the implementation of relevant reforms in the Member States through the **recovery and resilience plans** process and the **Technical Support Instrument** ⁽³¹⁾ to ensure social inclusion of persons with disabilities, focusing on a human-rights-based approach to disability assessment, progress in deinstitutionalisation and inclusive education.

Measures taken by the Member States

Most Member States have taken measures to **tackle gaps in the social protection of persons with disabilities** and to reduce inequalities ⁽³²⁾. This includes ensuring sufficient coverage and level of social protection for persons with disabilities (e.g. adjustment of some benefits and eligibility criteria, as well as improving the disability assessment procedure).

Remaining challenges to address

Two emerging priorities that deserve further attention: (i) mainstreaming a human rights-based approach to disability assessment, and (ii) factoring in the additional costs of having a disability when conceptualising disability social protection benefits (particularly in the context of rising costs of living that are often greater for persons with disability). The interaction between disability benefits and other types of benefits (particularly old-age pensions and work-related contributory benefits, which can reduce overall income support for persons with disabilities), deserves attention.

3.4. Equal access and non-discrimination

Improving access to justice, legal protection, freedom and security

- In February 2022, the Commission published a [study on the cross-border legal protection of vulnerable adults in the EU](#). In May 2023, it proposed a [legislative package](#), under negotiation, consisting of a Council decision obliging Member States to join the 2000 Hague Protection of Adults Convention, and a proposal for a regulation on the cross-border protection of adults.

⁽³¹⁾ Projects include: 1) '[Improving the disability assessment and social protection system](#)' in Italy (2021), 2) 'Improving the assessment of the remaining work capacity of persons with disabilities for the purpose of their inclusion in the labour market' in Croatia (2024), 3) '[Implementation of the European Child Guarantee](#)' in Slovakia (2022), 4) '[Designing a digital financial education strategy](#)' in Portugal (2021) and 5) '[Enhancing the capacity of the Coordinating Mechanism supporting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Greece - Reforms and Investments](#)' (2024), 6) '[Supporting the Life Choices of People with Disabilities in France](#)'

⁽³²⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden.

- In March 2023, the Commission published its [report on procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults](#) who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, which also addresses persons with disabilities.
- In December 2025, the co-legislators provisionally agreed on the **revision of the Victims' Rights Directive**. The revised rules include specific provisions for victims with disabilities; ensure better protection; improve access to support services; and increase accessibility in legal procedures.
- In the area of civil protection, the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism** includes persons with disabilities in disaster exercises; provides training of experts on diversity and inclusion aspects; funds projects supporting vulnerable groups; and sets disaster resilience goals for Member States that focus on the needs of vulnerable groups in disaster risk assessment, planning and response.

Remaining challenges to address

The [EU Justice scoreboard](#) shows a number of positive trends including in relation to the physical accessibility of court buildings and court rooms, the accessibility of legal aid, or of online information or solutions in place to help older persons participate in court proceedings, though some challenges in these areas remain. Since the inclusion of questions related to disability in 2022 in the scoreboard, every year more member states are reporting more measures to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

Equal access to goods and services (including housing and consumer protection)

- In May 2023, the co-legislators adopted the [General Product Safety Regulation \(GPSR\)](#), which requires that the safety of products should be assessed for all relevant aspects, including the needs of and risks to consumers with disabilities.

In November 2025, the Commission adopted the [2030 consumer agenda](#), which recognises the rights of persons with disabilities and the distinct challenges they face, such as limited accessible information and functionality.

- The **EU energy consumer framework** includes provisions concerning vulnerable consumers, including persons with disabilities. Member States must take measures to protect vulnerable consumers from energy disconnection. This is relevant for persons with disabilities who rely on electricity for life-sustaining medical devices, mobility equipment, and assistive and communication technologies.

- In December 2025, the Commission adopted the [European affordable housing plan](#). The plan addresses vulnerable groups (including persons with disabilities) by addressing housing accessibility, independent living, access to social and affordable housing, rental protection and support for homeless persons with disabilities.
- In December 2025, the Commission adopted the revised [Decision on Services of General Economic Interest](#), providing Member States with a faster and simpler way to support affordable housing. The decision clarifies aspects related to the provision of services, therefore facilitating support for independent living and community inclusion for persons with disabilities, including accessibility and assistive technology services, personal assistance and centres for independent living and rehabilitation services.

Inclusive and accessible education

- In November 2022, the [Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success](#) was adopted. It encourages the establishment of inclusive, high-quality education systems that remove barriers to learning, provide targeted support, and ensure that all learners can fully participate and benefit from education.
- The Commission has continued to support inclusive education in the Member States through the **European Education Area** [strategic framework working groups](#), notably the working groups on Schools - Pathways to School Success and on Equality and Values in Education and Training.
- **Erasmus+** and the **European Solidarity Corps** have introduced flexible mobility options, strengthened support services and expanded financial aid (including for inclusion support, preparatory visits and accompanying persons) to better enable the participation of persons with disabilities.

Measures taken by the Member States

In the area of inclusive education, the measures taken by Member States include adaptations of existing facilities for pupils with disabilities ⁽³³⁾; plans to establish competence centres to meet the specific needs of students with disabilities ⁽³⁴⁾; and individualised support structures to increase the competence of teachers ⁽³⁵⁾; and

⁽³³⁾ Belgium, Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

⁽³⁴⁾ Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Austria.

⁽³⁵⁾ Ireland, Spain, Italy, Malta, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Sweden.

inclusive settings in education systems, such as specialised support or curricula for inclusive education ⁽³⁶⁾.

Remaining challenges to address

There is still work to be done to achieve the goal of truly inclusive education. Digital education remains insufficiently accessible for students with disabilities. With regard to education and training on accessibility, the educational offer still does not meet the increased need to ensure that disability aspects are integrated in the curriculum, be it in digital design studies or in architectural studies.

Sustainable and equal access to healthcare

- In February 2022, the Commission launched the [European Cancer Inequalities Registry](#). In November 2022, the **Council adopted the [Recommendation on Cancer Screening](#)**, which includes references to persons with disabilities.
- In June 2023, the Commission adopted a [communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health](#). This identifies flagship initiatives, supported with EUR 1.23 billion, for Member States that fund, among other projects, measures relevant to persons with mental and intellectual disabilities.
- In November 2025, the Commission published [guidelines](#) on how to improve access to healthcare and overcome barriers for persons with disabilities, along with other deliverables under the **EU4Health Programme**.

Measures taken by the Member States

Measures reported by the Member States: include measures to improve **access by persons with disabilities to the general healthcare system** ⁽³⁷⁾ and to preventive healthcare ⁽³⁸⁾; development of **strategies for rare diseases** ⁽³⁹⁾; and establishment of expert centres for rare diseases ⁽⁴⁰⁾.

⁽³⁶⁾ Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden.

⁽³⁷⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Estonia, Spain, Greece, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Austria and Slovakia.

⁽³⁸⁾ Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta and Sweden.

⁽³⁹⁾ Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Estonia, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and Sweden.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, and Sweden.

Remaining challenges to address

The high volume of information that has been collected during this period allows a better understanding of the situation, enabling the identification of remaining gaps, as well as good practices to promote equal access to health by persons with disabilities. Guidelines on how to increase access and overcome barriers to access to healthcare for persons with disabilities are an opportunity for Member States to take further actions in the national and local context.

Improving access to art and culture, recreation, leisure, sport and tourism

- The Commission has promoted art works made by persons with disabilities as part of projects funded by the [Creative Europe Programme](#) e.g. 'Europe Beyond Access', 'Perform Europe' and the 'Culture Moves Europe' mobility scheme.
- In May 2021, the Commission published the [Guide on EU funding for tourism](#) in order to, amongst others, further promote the development of accessible tourism. In February 2022, the Commission presented the [Transition Pathway for Tourism](#), detailing key measures, targets and ways to achieve the green and digital transitions and secure the long-term resilience of the tourism sector, taking accessibility aspects into account.
- The [Commission Communication on a Culture Compass for Europe](#) of November 2025 recognised disability as a barrier to participation in cultural life and called for inclusive, accessible cultural policies and sustained investment in culture.

Measures taken by the Member States

Member States have reported on measures they have taken to promote and support persons with disabilities as artists, such as: funding for theatrical productions in which persons with disabilities have a leading role; organization of seminars and workshops; awareness-raising and trainings on inclusion and accessibility for those working in culture ⁽⁴¹⁾; and measures to improve the accessibility of information or infrastructure in the culture sector ⁽⁴²⁾.

⁴¹⁾ Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands and Austria.

⁽⁴²⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Remaining challenges to address

Despite legal provisions guaranteeing equal access to culture, not everyone has equal access to culture either as a consumer, or as an amateur or professional contributor. Challenges experienced by persons with disabilities in this field range from the inaccessibility of cultural venues to negative attitudes and stereotypes in the representation of persons with disabilities in art, to the insufficient involvement of people with disabilities in cultural organisations and decision-making processes.

Ensuring safety and protection

- The Commission adopted the [EU Strategy on the Training of Justice Professionals for 2021-2024](#), focusing on the training of justice professionals on the rights of specific groups, including persons with disabilities.
- In May 2024, the [Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) was adopted, which includes specific provisions and protection for women and girls with disabilities.
- In November 2025, the Fundamental Rights Agency published a [study on fundamental rights protection for persons with disabilities living in institutions](#). The study collected information on how human rights standards and principles are applied in the development and provision of care in institutional settings to address violence and abuse.

Measures taken by the Member States

Measures reported by Member States include establishing procedures for assessing vulnerabilities, including disabilities, in an international protection context ⁽⁴³⁾; and improving the accessibility of reception and application procedures ⁽⁴⁴⁾; and organising training for protection officers and interpreters ⁽⁴⁵⁾.

Remaining challenges to address

A significant legislative gap in EU non-discrimination law persists when it comes to equal treatment of persons with disabilities outside the field of employment. The Commission will continue supporting the Council Presidencies and Member States with all possible means to reach the required unanimous agreement on the proposal for the Equal Treatment Directive. The proposed directive would expand the protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability, among others, beyond

⁽⁴³⁾ Germany, Greece, France, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Finland.

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Germany, Greece, France, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Austria and Sweden.

⁽⁴⁵⁾ Germany, Greece, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

the area of employment to the areas of social protection, including healthcare, education, and access to and supply of goods and services available to the public, including housing. The most recent progress report on the proposed directive was issued by the Danish Presidency of the Council on 11 November 2025.

3.5. Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities globally

The EU has focused on reinforcing its global role as an advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. This involves taking social inclusion into account in international relations, external measures, policy planning, funding programmes and activities.

- In June 2021, the Commission published an updated '[Toolbox for placing rights-holders at the centre of the EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation](#)'. The updated toolbox positions disability inclusion as essential to the human rights-based approach and emphasises that it should be pursued in all external cooperation. It provides regular training on disability inclusion, and in 2023, updated the guidance on disability in external actions, by issuing the [Guidance Note](#) on disability inclusion in external actions.
- The Commission has continued to use [the OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) disability marker to track investments; recent data indicate that the proportion of new disability-inclusive action has increased ⁽⁴⁶⁾. Moreover, as of 2021, the Commission requires its humanitarian partners to indicate the number of unique beneficiaries with disabilities disaggregated by gender and encourages the use of the Washington Short Set of Questions, as a standard data collection methodology.
- In 2023, the Commission launched a dedicated **e-learning** to further promote the use of the **2019 Operational Guidance on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations** and better equip partners and staff to put it into practice.
- In 2024, the first-ever EU candidate for a UN Human Rights Committee was elected to the [United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#). This has bolstered the EU's role and helped advance dialogues with State Parties on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities globally.

⁽⁴⁶⁾ In 2024, 46% of newly funded programmes under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) were disability-inclusive (an improvement from 28% in 2023). Similarly, 67% of the newly funded programmes under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) integrated disability considerations in 2024 (up from 33% in 2023).

- In April 2025, the Commission signed the **Berlin-Amman Declaration** at the Global Disability Summit and proposed a set of commitments to promote the inclusion of disability in external action.

Remaining challenges to address

Through the measures set out in the strategy, the EU's leading role in the implementation of the UNCRPD has gained further visibility and opened the opportunity for a more systematic approach. Reporting on disability mainstreaming and targeted measures by reference to the OECD DAC marker remains extremely important. The EU's external services need to address the recommendations made by the UN CRPD Committee and implement the Commission commitments made at the Global Disability Summits, including the Amman-Berlin Declaration.

3.6. Efficiently delivering the strategy

The active involvement of persons with disabilities is essential for the successful delivery of the Strategy. Their first-hand experience ensures that policies, programmes, and initiatives respond to real needs and challenges. Participation in decision-making, planning and monitoring helps to identify barriers, test solutions and co-create accessible services and environments.

UNCRPD compliance in policymaking under the Better Regulation

- In November 2021, the Commission published an updated [Better Regulation Toolbox](#). The update, among other points, enhances disability-inclusiveness and ensure consistency with the UNCRPD.
- The Commission has ensured that disability matters are included and considered in policymaking, including through capacity building measures such as dedicated **training courses** on disability mainstreaming for the equality coordinators of the [Task Force on Equality](#) and other Commission staff.

Stepping up cooperation between EU institutions and Member States

- **Disability coordinators** have been appointed in all the Commission's directorates-general and in most EU agencies, including the EEAS and some EU delegations. Disability coordinators meet regularly to coordinate the strategy's implementation in the Commission and to mainstream disability in policy areas.
- The Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have developed a structured dialogue on the UNCRPD's implementation. This involves **regular trilateral meetings** at both technical and political level.

- Visibility and attention to disability challenges have been increased in the **European Semester** process for coordinating Member States' economic and social policies. Since 2022, the disability employment gap indicator has been part of the social protection monitor scoreboard for the Member State analysis. In 2025, four Member States received country-specific recommendations on disability addressing employment and poverty challenges.

Working with Member States, local and regional authorities and civil society organisations

Flagship initiative:

In October 2021, the Commission established the [Disability Platform](#), which provides a forum for cooperation with the Member States and civil society. Members meet at least three times a year to exchange experiences and reflections and prepare together EU-level policy initiatives in the field of disability, mainly through the subgroups dedicated to the flagships initiatives of the strategy: AccessibleEU, the European Disability Card, the Disability Employment Package, Independent Living, and Social Services.

Since 2021, other measures have been taken at EU level in several areas.

- In the [Council Conclusions of June 2021 on the Strategy](#), Member States made a commitment to ensure the implementation of the UNCRPD and mainstream **disability** in all policies to be dealt with at Council level.
- The Commission organises the **European Day of Persons with Disabilities**, in partnership with the European Disability Forum, to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This two-day annual event brings together more than 400 policymakers from the EU Member States, high-level experts and disability advocates. The conference is combined with the ceremony of the [Access City Award](#), to recognise cities' outstanding efforts to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Over the past 16 years, 77 cities have received the award (including 16 first-prize winners).

Measures taken by the Member States

Several Member States have reported that they have established dedicated **national strategies** for disability to foster the implementation of the UNCRPD and the integration of disability-aspects into other measures at national, regional or local level.

Supporting implementation through EU funding

- In June 2021, the [Common Provisions Regulation](#) ⁽⁴⁷⁾ was adopted. It includes (i) horizontal enabling conditions for the Member States to ensure that the use of EU funds is compliant with the UNCRPD and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU; (ii) thematic enabling conditions related to the shift from institutional to community-based care; and (iii) accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities.
- Through the **ESF+**, which has a total budget of over EUR 141 billion for the 2021–2027 programming period (over EUR 94 billion from the EU budget), the Commission has continued to support the Member States and regions in developing inclusive education, training and employment programmes; and in promoting the active inclusion of persons with disabilities. The ESF+ also has a strong focus on promoting high-quality community-based social services and EUR 16,3 billion (including EUR 11.5 billion from the EU budget) is programmed on operations supporting “equal access to quality social and healthcare services.”
- Through the **European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF), Member States and regions have earmarked EUR 22 billion for 2021-2027 to improve access to services in employment, education, social inclusion, housing, healthcare, culture, and sustainable tourism, with EUR 2.4 billion dedicated to vulnerable groups (including persons with disabilities). This funding focuses on accessible infrastructure and cross-border collaboration, and emphasises community-based services and inclusion, aligning with UNCRPD principles.
- The Commission provides funding through the **Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values** (CERV) programme to support rights, non-discrimination, equality, and advancing non-discrimination mainstreaming as well as organisations of persons with disabilities. Between 2022 and 2025, CERV and the ESF+ co-funded [12 EU-level networks of civil society organisations](#) working to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Total funding exceeded EUR 26 million.
- Under Pillar II of the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme **Horizon Europe**, the [2021-2022 calls for proposals](#) included 32 topics related to persons with disabilities, with total funding of EUR 462 million. The [2023-2024 calls for proposals](#) included 23 such topics, with total funding of EUR 468 million. Under the 2025 calls for proposals, topics related to persons

⁽⁴⁷⁾ Covering European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

with disabilities amounted to EUR 50.2 million. These topics covered areas such as health, culture and inclusive society, civil security, the digital and industrial sectors, climate and mobility, and food and the environment.

- Since 2021, **Erasmus+** has supported the learning mobility activities of over 46 200 participants with disabilities in the fields of education and training, youth and sport, representing around 1.4% of all supported mobility participants. It has also supported more than 1300 learning mobility projects and close to 1000 cooperation projects aimed at developing accessibility tools, methodologies or disability-inclusive policies in these sectors in the same period.

July 2025, the Commission presented its [proposal for the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework \(MFF\)](#), with a total budget of almost EUR 2 trillion.

- The MFF proposals thoroughly address equality and non-discrimination, including disability references.
- The **national and regional partnership plans (NRPPs)** will be the main EU funding instrument for Member States, consolidating funding streams from the previous periods into a single plan for each Member State and covering different policy areas, including cohesion and social inclusion. The proposal for the National and Regional Partnership Plan includes as a horizontal principle non-discrimination and accessibility.
- As part of the Plans, the ESF will remain the main instrument to promote and strengthen social cohesion, investing in Europe's people, their future.
- According to its dedicated regulation (still pending adoption), the ESF will contribute to supporting quality jobs and labor mobility, improving education, training, and lifelong acquisition of skills, fighting poverty and homelessness, promoting social inclusion and equality, addressing material deprivation and developing social infrastructure. At least 14 % of the financial envelope of the new single Fund (including loan support but excluding direct payments under the CAP and excluding Social Climate Fund budget) will be dedicated to social objectives. This corresponds to at least EUR 100 billion.
- The expanded **Agora EU programme** brings together support for culture, media and civil society. It features a robust CERV+ strand that is aimed, among other objectives, at protecting and promoting fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination.
- The **Budget Expenditure Tracking and Performance Framework Regulation** notes that the Charter of Fundamental Rights prohibits disability discrimination and ensures independence and integration rights for persons with disabilities. It also reaffirms the EU's commitment to the UNCRPD.

Measures taken by the Member States

As part of the preparation of ESF + programming for 2021-2027, Member States reported on: consultations with representatives of various stakeholders, such as representative associations, employers, workers, insurance bodies, and local and regional authorities ⁽⁴⁸⁾; and the implementation of horizontal enabling conditions monitored by UNCRPD focal points ⁽⁴⁹⁾.

Remaining challenges to address

EU funds have supported the inclusion of persons with disabilities in various areas of life and across regions and territories in the EU. Future funding should continue to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in economy and society.

3.7. Leading by example

The Commission aspires to be a role model in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. By implementing the strategy, it seeks to inspire other EU institutions, agencies and bodies to follow its example and fulfil their UNCRPD obligations.

Making selection, recruitment, employment and retention processes disability-inclusive

Flagship initiative:

In December 2022, the Commission presented a new [human resources strategy](#). This was followed by an updated [action plan on diversity and inclusion in the workplace for 2023-2024](#), which includes measures to promote diversity and the inclusion of staff with disabilities and carers. DG HR will use the findings of the 2025 diversity and inclusion survey for the revision of the action plan on diversity and inclusion.

The Commission coordinates and exchanges good practices on inclusion with disability coordinators of other EU institutions and the [European Personnel Selection Office](#) (EPSO). EPSO adopted an equality and diversity action plan in May 2022, further enhancing the accessibility of its communication and selection procedures and covering dedicated outreach activities, including for candidates with disabilities and special needs, to increase the diversity of EPSO's candidate pool.

⁽⁴⁸⁾ Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Sweden.

⁽⁴⁹⁾ Bulgaria, Czechia, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden.

Since 2021, other measures have been taken at EU level in several areas.

- The Commission has taken numerous measures to **remove barriers for persons (staff and public) with disabilities**, including by providing accessible ICT equipment ⁽⁵⁰⁾ and organising inclusive meetings and conferences ⁽⁵¹⁾.

Accessibility of communication

- In September 2022, the Commission adopted the 2022-2025 [web accessibility action plan](#), which aims to ensure that EU websites, including the documents they contain, and online platforms comply with the accessibility standards. The Commission created a dedicated Task Force on Web Accessibility and a network of accessibility correspondents in every Commission directorate-general, to raise awareness of web accessibility requirements.
- The EU's Publications Office provides **training for Commission staff** on accessible publishing and produces accessible and easy-to-read publications.
- The Commission works towards ensuring both **physical and virtual accessibility in its conferences and events**. In 2025 it updated both the interpretation checklist used internally by conference managers, adding emphasis on Sign Language Interpretation, and the guidelines on accessible and inclusive conferences. The Commission provides international sign interpretation upon request at conferences and events (62 meetings benefited in 2025).

Accessibility of buildings

- The accessibility of the EU institutions' premises has been improved thanks to dedicated action plans, such as the **2021-2023 equality work plan of Commission's Office for Infrastructure and Buildings**. The plan addresses the needs of staff and visitors with specific physical needs and/or permanent or temporary impairments, with a view to ensuring physical accessibility and raising awareness.

⁽⁵⁰⁾ As part of its digital workplace strategy, the Commission updates annually the list of specific end user IT equipment for staff with disabilities and ensures its availability. The Commission has also launched the HR Transformation Programme to ensure digital accessibility to desktop and mobile applications for staff.

⁽⁵¹⁾ [Guidelines: Accessibility and Inclusion](#). Tools and services supporting the organisation of accessible events and conferences include closed captions and subtitles for all official EU languages, international sign-language interpretation and an accessible participants registration tool that collects information on special requirements.

- The Commission has ensured that **all newly occupied buildings, new and renovated buildings** (as well as **venues** where Commission events take place) comply with [European accessibility standards](#) ⁽⁵²⁾.

European Schools

- The European Schools have approved **part-time schooling for pupils with special needs** in order to better accommodate diverse learning needs, endorsing the Introducing Flexibility to the European Schools' Curriculum (effective from September 2026).
- The European Schools have also **updated the list of assistive technologies** and are finalising a self-paced online course on universal design for learning to equip educators with inclusive teaching strategies.

Remaining challenges to address

Despite ongoing progress since 2022, when the web accessibility action plan was adopted, some challenges persist in ensuring that Commission's websites are accessible to all and, that the Commission's content is ready for AI-driven discovery, personalisation and multilingual services. While all Commission buildings in Brussels and Luxembourg continue to comply with legal obligations on accessibility for persons with disabilities, more efforts are needed to respond to the diverse needs of persons with disabilities. The Commission will continue mainstreaming diversity and inclusion in HR policies and collecting equality data

3.8. Awareness, governance and measuring progress

Since 2021, a number of measures have been taken at EU level in several areas, such as:

Awareness-raising to combat stereotypes around disability

- In July 2022, the Commission launched the ['Together for Rights' campaign](#) to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in the EU and promote the strategy ⁽⁵³⁾.

⁽⁵²⁾ Including for example tactile path from the main entrance of the building to the elevator; tactile signage for calling the elevator and audio information in it; warning tactile stripes in the staircases; ramps for people with wheelchairs; accessible parking spaces; accessible toilets on each floor.

⁽⁵³⁾ The campaign focused on six key rights: mobility; inclusive education and work; independent living; political participation; accessibility; and inclusive culture, leisure and sports. A range of materials was produced, including videos, visuals, newsletters and leaflets. 27 disability influencers from across the EU promoted the strategy.

- In May 2023, the Commission launched the multiannual campaign [‘Let’s Make it Work’](#) to raise awareness about workers’ rights and social rights. Under this campaign, equality at work for persons with disabilities was highlighted.

Strengthening the EU framework under the UNCRPD

- Representatives of the focal point at the Commission and the **EU framework under the UNCRPD** have met annually, discussing actions implemented by the Commission and by framework members (i.e. the European Disability Forum, the European Ombudsman, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and related committees of the European Parliament).
- The Commission has launched **a tender for a study on the functioning of the EU framework**, looking into recommendations to improve the work and effectiveness of the framework and to comply with the UNCRPD’s Concluding Observations to the EU.

Ensuring sound monitoring and reporting

- The Commission has established a [monitoring framework for the strategy with an annually published scoreboard](#) to provide information on progress made in implementing the strategy.
- Eurostat has introduced [new indicators](#) that measure various aspects of the lives of persons with disabilities and has established a thematic [webpage dedicated to disability statistics](#).
- In 2021, the **Disability Employment Gap** was introduced as a new headline indicator in the Social Scoreboard, which accompanies the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Remaining challenges to address

Data collection and presentation significantly improved, though there are still issues concerning disability statistics e.g. population coverage. Further efforts are needed to obtain data on the situation of persons with disabilities and each of the rights enshrined in the UNCRPD - disaggregated by age, sex and type of impairments.

4. Conclusion

The 2021-2030 Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities has been implemented amidst a series of crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, the energy crisis, followed by high inflation and increased cost of living. These crises have shed light on the situation of persons with disabilities in the most precarious situations, particularly those in poor households and in institutional care. In this context, the strategy has remained a valuable compass that shows the way forward on advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

This report has taken stock of progress so far and shown that significant advances have been made on all the priorities of the strategy. Most of the flagship initiatives and all the measures planned for the reporting period have either been delivered or are ongoing (27 of the 64 measures have been completed and 37 are still ongoing). The needs of persons with disabilities have been taken into account in a wide range of EU legal acts, policies and measures. Member States have demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving the strategy's objectives and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

Gaps nevertheless remain between persons with and without disabilities. Persons with disabilities still face barriers to education, employment, social protection, health, voting and independent living. The work carried out so far should be consolidated. For instance, while breakthrough legal acts such as the European Accessibility Act and the European Disability Card Directive constitute tangible steps forward, further efforts are needed to build a barrier-free EU.

Member States, civil society organisations and other stakeholders have been consulted and have contributed to policy and legislative developments during the implementation of the strategy. They have also provided input and observations for this progress report. Their feedback and participation will remain indispensable for the implementation of the enhanced strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030. This will help ensure that specific disability measures and disability mainstreaming continue to be developed in order to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities.

Annex

EU Legal acts which refer to matters governed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (later referred to as the UNCRPD) was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006**. It is the first international legally binding instrument that sets minimum standards for the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities. As of March 2026, it has 193 parties, including not only all the European Union's 27 Member States but also the EU itself. This was the first time that the EU has become a party to an international human rights convention.

The **Council adopted Decision 2010/48/EC for the conclusion of the UNCRPD on 26 November 2009**. The EU formally became a party to the UNCRPD on 23 December 2010. It finally entered into force for the EU on 22 January 2011. The EU has since then been formally committed to upholding and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in the UNCRPD.

The conclusion of the UNCRPD was an **opportunity for the EU to identify the parts of its legislation which contribute to the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities**. The Declaration of Competence - Appendix to Annex II of Decision 2010/48/EC - sets out a list of EU legal acts that related to matters covered by the UNCRPD at the time of the conclusion and illustrates the scope of the EU's competence in this field.

The publication of the Progress Report on the implementation of the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 is an opportunity to **publish an up-to-date overview of EU legal acts referring to matters governed by the UNCRPD**. The EU's growing commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities can be seen in the growing number of legislative acts that relate to matters governed by the UNCRPD.

The present document compiles and tracks all the major EU legal acts, such as regulations, directives and decisions of the EU institutions, that are particularly relevant to persons with disabilities and their rights It updates the list published by the Commission in the 2017 progress report on the European disability Strategy. They are provided for informative purposes, and the list is non-exhaustive. The list includes legal acts that were already covered by the Declaration of Competence in 2010 and that are still in force as well as other more recent legal acts. A comparison between the two shows the expansion of EU legislation supporting the rights of persons with disabilities ⁽⁵⁴⁾. The declaration concerning the competence of the Union with regard to matters governed by the UNCRPD should therefore be updated in due course as required by Article 44(1) of the UNCRPD.

⁽⁵⁴⁾ Some of the acts that were in the original declaration are no longer listed in the present list as they have been repealed.

EU LEGAL ACTS WHICH REFER TO MATTERS GOVERNED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

- Council Decision **79/505/EEC** of 8 May 1979 on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials (OJ L 134, 31.5.1979, p. 13)

Contracting Parties to the Agreement undertake not to apply national levies on articles for blind and other disabled persons.

- Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) **No 354/83** of 1 February 1983 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 43, 15.2.1983, pp. 1–3) as amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1700/2003 of 22 September 2003 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 243, 27.9.2003, pp. 1–4), and as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2015/496 of 17 March 2015 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 as regards the deposit of the historical archives of the institutions at the European University Institute in Florence (OJ L 79, 25.3.2015, pp. 1–5).

This act opens historical archives of the Communities to the public in order to increase transparency within the EU. It requires the archives of EU institutions to meet the special needs of people with visual impairments.

- Council Directive **89/665/EEC** of 21 December 1989 on the coordination of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of review procedures to the award of public supply and public works contracts (OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 33), as amended by Directive 2007/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 amending Council Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC with regard to improving the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts (OJ L 335, 20.12.2007, p. 31) ⁽⁵⁵⁾
- Council Directive **92/13/EEC** of 25 February 1992 coordinating the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of Community rules on the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors (OJ L 76, 23.3.1992, p. 14), as amended by Directive 2007/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 amending Council Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC with regard to improving

⁽⁵⁵⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and with further amendments is still in force.

the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts (OJ L 335, 20.12.2007, p. 31) ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Council Directive 89/665/EEC requires EU Member States to ensure that decisions on the award of public contracts and concessions (as well as preliminary procedural decisions in that context) are reviewed quickly and effectively if they have infringed EU public procurement law. Council Directive 92/13/ECC applies the same provisions to the award of public contracts and concessions in the utilities sector, as well as preliminary procedural decisions. Both Council directives were amended by Directive 2007/66/EC, but no new references on disability were added. Previous references nevertheless continue to apply.

- European Parliament and Council Directive **95/16/EC** of 29 June 1995 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to lifts (OJ L 213, 7.9.1995, p. 1-31), as amended by Directive **2006/42/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (recast) (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 24). Repealed by Directive 2014/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to lifts and safety components for lifts (recast) (OJ L 96, p. 251-308).

This act governs the harmonisation of essential health and safety requirements for machinery at EU level, including the provisions for the accessibility of lifts by persons with disabilities.

- Directive **97/67/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 1997 on common rules for the development of the internal market of Community postal services and the improvement of quality of services (OJ L 15, 21.1.1998, p. 14), as amended by Directive 2002/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 June 2002 with regard to the further opening to competition of Community postal services (OJ L 176, 5.7.2002, p. 21), and as amended by Directive 2008/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 with regard to the full accomplishment of the internal market of Community postal services (OJ L 52, 27.2.2008, p. 3) ⁽⁵⁷⁾

This act sets out common rules for the development of the internal market of Community postal services and states that these services must not be discriminatory. Directive 2008/6/EC sets out the rules that Member States must implement in order to complete the EU's internal market for postal service, including their accessibility and quality. It amends Directive 97/67/EC in a number of ways, including by redefining the scope of Article 12, which requires

⁽⁵⁶⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and with further amendments is still in force.

⁽⁵⁷⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and with further amendments is still in force.

Member States to ensure universal access to postal services to all citizens on a non-discriminatory basis. Directive 2008/6/EC more precisely states that blind and partially sighted persons can be granted free access to postal services.

- Council Directive **2004/81/EC** of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities (OJ L 261, 6.8.2004, p. 19)

This act sets out the procedure for issuing and renewing the residence permit; the conditions for non-renewal or withdrawal; and provisions on the treatment of victims before and after they are granted a permit. The Member States are obliged to provide necessary assistance to persons with special needs.

- Directive **2008/57/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community (Recast) (OJ L 191, 18.7.2008, pp. 1–45) repealed by Directive (EU) **2016/797** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (recast) (OJ L 138, , pp. 44–101) and repealed by Directive (EU) **2016/798** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on railway safety (recast) (OJ L 138, , pp. 102–149).

Commission Regulation (EU) **1300/2014** of 18 November 2014 on the technical specifications for interoperability relating to accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility (OJ L 356, 12.12.2014, p. 110), as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2019/772** of 16 May 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014 as regards inventory of assets with a view to identifying barriers to accessibility, providing information to users and monitoring and evaluating progress on accessibility (OJ L 139I, 27.5.2019, pp. 1–4)

This Commission Regulation provides technical specifications and common standards relating to accessibility of the rail system within the EU for persons with disabilities or reduced mobility. It further specifies the information to be collected in order to identify barriers to accessibility experienced by persons with disabilities under the technical specifications for interoperability of rail systems.

- Directive **2009/18/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and amending Council Directive 1999/35/EC and Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 131, 28.5.2009, p. 114–127)

This act provides common rules on how to investigate accidents in the maritime transport sector within the EU and contains several provisions on victims or seriously injured persons.

- Directive **2009/45/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on safety rules and standards for passenger ships (OJ L 163, 25.6.2009, p. 1), repealing Directive 2003/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14

April 2003 and the Council Directive 98/18/EC on safety rules and standards for passenger ships (OJ L 123, 17.5.2003, p. 18)

This act concerns passenger ships that operate domestic routes (i.e. between two ports in a Member State) ... It sets detailed safety rules and standards on ship construction and equipment; these include guidelines on safety and accessibility for passengers with reduced mobility which Member States are required to implement. Directive **2009/136/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009, amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services, Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws (OJ L 337, 18.12.2009, p. 11)

This act maintains the obligations of Directive 2002/22/EC as regards persons with disabilities. It therefore contains provisions allowing Member States to take specific measures to ensure that access to and affordability of electronic communication services are guaranteed for disabled users. It also requires the Member States to ensure the accessibility of the emergency services (including the '112' phone number for all users with a disability).

- Regulation (EC) **1073/2009** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 on common rules for access to the international market for coach and bus services, and amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 (OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, p. 88–105)

This act clarifies and simplifies the rules for the international carriage of passengers by road within the territory of the EU, as well as the conditions under which non-resident carriers may operate national transport services within an EU Member State. Member States must have and apply national requirements relating to the carriage of certain categories of passengers (including persons with reduced mobility).

- Directive **2010/13/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) (OJ L 95, 15.4.2010, pp. 1–24), as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administration action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual medial services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in view of changing market realities (OJ L 303, 28.11.2018, pp. 69–92), and as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act) (OJ L, 2024/1083, 17.4.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1083/oj>)

The Directive includes an obligation to make media services continuously and progressively more accessible to persons with

disabilities through proportionate measures. It also provides for monitoring and complaint schemes, and accessibility of emergency information provided to the public.

- Directive **2010/64/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings (OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p. 1)

This act establishes minimum EU-wide rules on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings for all people (including those with disabilities), even if they are not explicitly mentioned.

- Directive **2011/36/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1)

This act lays down minimum common rules for determining offences of trafficking in human beings and punishing offenders. It also requires measures to better prevent such trafficking and to strengthen the protection of victims, including assistance to those with special needs.

- Directive **2011/92/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA (OJ L 335, 17.12.2011, p. 1)

This act is aimed at combating sexual offences committed against children. It covers sanctions, prevention and assistance for victims. Specific provisions are provided concerning the sexual abuse and exploitation of children with disabilities.

- Directive **2011/95/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (OJ L 337, 20.12.2011, p. 9–26)

This act ensures that Member States apply common criteria for the identification of persons who are genuinely in need of international protection, and that a minimum and equal level of benefits is available for those persons in all Member States. When implementing it, Member States must take into account the specific situation of vulnerable persons (including people with disabilities, older people and persons with mental disorders) and must provide them with appropriate healthcare and the same eligibility conditions for granting international protection as to other applicants.

- Directive **2011/99/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order (OJ L 338, 21.12.2011, p. 2)

This act allows victims of violence (particularly domestic violence and stalking) to continue to enjoy protection from offenders when they move

to another EU Member State. Special consideration should be given to the rights of victims with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **305/2011** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products, repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC (OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, p. 5)

The Regulation simplifies the legal framework applicable to construction products within the EU and defines criteria for assessing the performance of such products. It requires accessibility and needs for disabled persons to be considered in the design of construction works.

- Directive **2012/13/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the right to information in criminal proceedings (OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p. 1)

The Directive sets minimum standards for all EU Member States, regardless of a suspect's legal status, citizenship or nationality, on the right to information on their procedural rights and the charges against them. Information in criminal proceedings must be provided in simple and accessible language, if suspected or accused persons have specific needs.

- Directive **2012/29/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA (OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57)

This act reinforces existing national measures with EU-wide minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime in every EU Member State. These rights include the provision of accessible information to persons with disabilities who may have specific needs.

- Regulation (EU) **1025/2012** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC, and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12-33)

This act is the legal basis for the EU to use EU standards for products and services in support of EU legislation and policies. It also requires EU standards to comply with the UNCRRPD and set out obligations for various stakeholders (including DPOs) regarding their active involvement in standard-setting.

- Directive **2013/11/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC (Directive on consumer ADR) (OJ L 165, 18.6.2013, pp. 63-79), as amended by Directive (EU) **2025/2647** of the

European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2025 amending Directive 2013/11/EU on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Directives (EU) 2015/2302, (EU) 2019/2161 and (EU) 2020/1828 following the discontinuation of the European Online Dispute Resolution Platform (OJ L, 2025/2647, 30.12.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/2647/oj>)

The Directive provides that where alternative dispute resolution (ADR) entities which provide for out-of-court dispute resolution for consumers offer digital ADR procedures, they should provide them through easily accessible and inclusive tools.

- Directive **2013/32/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 60–95)

This act sets EU-wide asylum procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (including refugee status and protection granted to people who are not refugees but would risk serious harm if returned to their country of origin). EU Member States must ensure that applicants' applications are examined individually, objectively and impartially; and that applicants who are in need of special assistance (due to their age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, serious illness, mental disorders or as a consequence of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence) are granted effective access to all procedures and necessary support.

- Directive **2013/33/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 96–116)

This act ensures equal treatment and improved reception conditions for applicants for international protection in the EU. It also contains some provisions for vulnerable persons, stating that Member States' national laws implementing the Directive must take into account the specific situation of vulnerable persons (including persons with disabilities, serious illnesses or mental disorders).

- Directive **2013/48/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty (OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p. 1)

It ensures that suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings have access to a lawyer and have the right to communicate while deprived of their liberty. It requires Member States to ensure that the particular needs of vulnerable persons are taken into account in the application of the Directive.

- Commission Recommendation of 27 November 2013 on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings (OJ C 378, 24.12.2013, pp. 8–10)

The aim of the Recommendation is to encourage Member States to strengthen the procedural rights of all suspects or accused persons who are not able to understand and to effectively participate in criminal proceedings due to age, their mental or physical condition or disabilities ('vulnerable persons'). It recommends that vulnerable persons be promptly identified and recognised, including by means of a presumption of vulnerability in particular for persons with serious psychological, intellectual, physical or sensory impairments, or mental illness or cognitive disorders, hindering them to understand and effectively participate in the proceedings. It further makes recommendations for a number of procedural safeguards to ensure that vulnerable persons received a fair trial.

- Regulation (EU) **1303/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320)

This act sets the common principles, rules and standards for the operation of the five European Structural and Investment Funds for 2014-2020. It prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability in the implementation of the Funds and mandates accessibility.

Regulation (EU) **1301/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289). This act has been amended. This act sets the principles, rules and standards for the implementation of the European Regional Development Fund and the scope of its investment in growth, jobs and territorial cooperation in 2014-2020. The infrastructures should promote the social inclusion of marginalised groups.

Transition from institutional to community-based care is an investment priority.

- Regulation (EU) **1304/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470). This act has been amended.

This act sets the principles, rules and standards for the ESF's implementation in 2014-2020, including in the areas of social inclusion and non-discrimination (including against persons with disabilities) and accessibility promotion.

- Council Regulation (EU) **216/2013** of 7 March 2013 on the electronic publication of the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ L 69, 13.3.2013, p. 1)

This act ensures better access for the public to EU legislation and related notices (the EU's Official Journal in its electronic form is considered as a legally binding document). It also recalls the EU's obligations under the UNCRPD to make information accessible to persons with disabilities.

- Directive **2014/24/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement, repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65).

The Directive sets out rules on the use of public contracts for the provision of works, supplies or services by companies or individuals; and on the exemptions which can be applied. It specifies that national authorities using public procurement must treat all applicants equally and not discriminate between them. It also requires technical specifications laying down the characteristics of the work to be performed to include accessibility criteria for persons with disabilities.

- Directive **2014/25/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, repealing Directive 2004/17/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 243).

The Directive sets out rules on the use of public contracts by companies or individuals in the water, energy, transport and postal sectors to obtain works, supplies or services. It takes account of the specific features of these sectors which play a key role in meeting society's needs (including the integration of persons with disabilities). It also requires technical specifications laying down the characteristics of the work to be performed to include accessibility criteria for persons with disabilities.

- Directive **2014/35/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 357–374)

The Directive creates uniform conditions throughout the EU for the sale of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits. It covers all health and safety risks, thus ensuring that electrical equipment is used safely and for the applications for which it was made. The harmonised standards relevant to the Directive should also consider the UNCRPD among other points.

- Directive **2014/53/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment, repealing Directive 1999/5/EC (OJ L 153, 22.5.2014, p. 62). This act has been amended.

The Directive set out rules for putting radio equipment on the EU's internal market, including health and safety requirements. The Directive contains specific provisions related to users with disabilities; and requires radio equipment to be able to support accessibility features for persons with disabilities.

- Council Regulation (EU) **729/2014** of 24 June 2014 on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins intended for circulation (OJ L 194, 2.7.2014, p. 1–7)

To permit the smooth circulation of coins in the Eurozone, this act lays down the denominations and technical specifications of euro coins. It states that consultations with consumer associations and the European Blind Union were carried out to take into account the specific requirements of important categories of coin users. It also states that easy distinction between coins through visual and tactile characteristics needs to be guaranteed, in order to facilitate acceptance of the coinage system by users.

- Regulation (EU) **223/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1–41). This act has been amended.

This act establishes the 2014-2020 Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, which supports EU Member States' actions to reduce poverty by providing non-financial assistance (e.g. food and clothing and other essentials) to the most materially deprived. It aims at fighting poverty and the marginalisation of the most vulnerable groups, and at ensuring social inclusion, together with the Member States. Aid should be available to all, regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

- Regulation (EU) **910/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market, repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73). This act has been amended.

This act creates a new system for secure electronic interaction across the EU between businesses, citizens and public authorities. It contains an accessibility requirement.

- Directive (EU) **2016/343** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings (OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p. 1–11)

The Directive establishes common minimum rules on the protection of the presumption of innocence and the right to be present at trial. It requires Member States to take into account particular needs of

vulnerable persons (due to their age, mental or physical condition or disability) with regard to both their presence in the trial and effective participation in and understanding of the proceedings.

- Regulation (EU) **2016/424** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on cableway installations and repealing Directive 2000/9/EC (OJ L 81, 31.3.2016, p. 1–50). This act has been amended.

The Regulation defines a set of essential safety requirements at EU level, as well as construction, inspection and assembly procedures applicable to cableways for the conveyance of passengers, thus ensuring free movement of such products in the internal market. It contains an obligation to provide safe use by children and people with reduced mobility if the installation is designed for the transport of such persons.

Directive (EU) **2016/797** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (OJ L 138, 26.5.2016, p. 44–101). This act has been amended. The Directive sets the conditions to be met to achieve interoperability within the EU rail system (particularly metros, trams and trains), including their design, construction, placing in service, upgrading and renewing. It also directly refers to the UNCRPD and its accessibility provisions and therefore requires Member States to promote a railway system that will be accessible for all and to ensure that persons with disabilities can access all rail services on an equal basis with others.

- Regulation (EU) **2016/796** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Railways and repealing Regulation (EC) No 881/2004 (OJ L 138, 26.5.2016, pp. 1–43).

The Regulation requires organisations of persons with disabilities and reduced mobilities to be consulted on questions concerning rail interoperability and passenger safety.

- Directive (EU) **2016/800** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 1–20)

It establishes specific procedural safeguards for children, who are suspects or accused in criminal proceedings, to ensure that they are able to understand and follow those proceedings and able to exercise their right to a fair trial, and to prevent children from re-offending and fostering their social integration. It requires children to be individually assessed as to their circumstances, needs and vulnerabilities, including the child's personality, maturity, economic, social and family background, and any specific vulnerability such as learning disabilities or communication difficulties. This assessment has to be taken into consideration in any decision taken with regard to the child during the proceedings, with their

best interests as a primary consideration. Children who are deprived of liberty during the proceedings have the right to specific treatment in accordance with their needs. This includes access to education and training, including when they have physical, sensory or learning disabilities.

- Directive (EU) **2016/1919** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings (OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, pp. 1–8). This act has been amended.

The purpose of the Directive is to ensure the effectiveness of the right of access to a lawyer by making available the assistance of a lawyer funded by the Member States for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons who are the subject of European arrest warrant proceedings. It requires Member States to ensure that the needs of vulnerable suspects, accused persons and requested persons are taken into account in the implementation of the Directive.

- Directive (EU) **2016/2102** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (OJ L 327, 2.12.2016, p. 1–15)

The Directive aims at making public sector bodies' websites and mobile apps more accessible. It does so by laying down accessibility requirements and providing a better perception, understanding, navigation and interaction. It also ensures better access to digital public services for all but especially for people with disabilities (mainly persons with vision or hearing impairments). The Directive directly refers to the UNCRPD and its reasonable accommodation requirements.

- Regulation (EU) **2017/1563** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2017 on the cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled (OJ L 242, 20.9.2017, pp. 1–5)

The Regulation establishes rules on the exchange of accessible works, which are exempted from copyright protection, between the EU and non-EU countries.

- Directive (EU) **2017/1564** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2017 on certain permitted uses of certain works and other subject matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled and amending Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society (OJ L 242, 20.9.2017, pp. 6–13)

The Directive further harmonises the parts of EU copyright legislation that deal with copyright exemptions for works used by people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired. The Directive's adoption paved the way for the EU to conclude the Marrakesh Treaty.

- Directive (EU) **2017/2110** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 on a system of inspections for the safe operation of ro-ro passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft in regular service and amending Directive 2009/16/EC and repealing Council Directive 1999/35/EC (*OJ L 315, 30.11.2017, pp. 61–77*).

The Directive provides for mandatory surveys of regular roll-on-roll-off ferries and high-speed passenger craft using EU ports, to ensure that they satisfy applicable safety standards. These standards include obligation to provide passengers with information about services and assistance available to people with disabilities, and obligation to organise safety training for personnel providing direct safety assistance to elderly or disabled passengers.

- Council Decision (EU) **2018/254** of 15 February 2018 on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled (*OJ L 48, 21.2.2018, pp. 1–2*)

The Decision approves the EU's formal accession to the Marrakesh Treaty.

- Directive (EU) **2018/1972** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (Recast) (*OJ L 321, 17.12.2018, pp. 36–214*). This act has been amended.

The Directive establishes a harmonised framework for the regulation of electronic communications networks, electronic communications services, associated facilities and associated services, and certain aspects of terminal equipment. It aims to ensure the provision of high-quality services that take into account the accessibility requirements of end users with disabilities.

- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) **2018/2048** of 20 December 2018 on the harmonised standard for websites and mobile applications in support of Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*OJ L 327, 21.12.2018, pp. 84–86*). This act has been amended.

The Implementing Decision establishes a harmonised standard for websites and mobile applications and was developed to enable the implementation of Directive (EU) 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.

- Directive (EU) **2019/882** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services (The European Accessibility Act) (OJ L 321, 17.12.2018, pp. 36–214)

The Directive establishes common obligations as regards accessibility requirements for certain products and services. This will eliminate and prevent barriers to the free movement of products and services covered by the Directive. Barriers would otherwise arise from divergent accessibility requirements in the Member States.

- Directive (EU) **2019/944** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU (recast) (OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, pp. 125–199). This act has been amended.

The Directive establishes common rules for the generation, transmission, distribution, energy storage and supply of electricity, together with consumer protection provisions. Energy consumption comparison tools should be accessible for persons with disabilities.

- Directive (EU) **2019/770** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on certain aspects concerning contracts for the supply of digital content and digital services (OJ L 136, 22.5.2019, pp. 1–27)

The Directive establishes some common rules concerning contracts between traders and consumers for the supply of digital content (particularly digital services). It addresses the broader aspects of accessibility of digital content, so it is potentially directly relevant for consumers with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/788** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the European citizens' initiative (OJ L 130, 17.5.2019, pp. 55–81). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes the procedures and conditions required for an EU citizens' initiative inviting the Commission (within the framework of its powers) to submit any appropriate proposal on matters of concern. It includes provisions on the accessibility of the procedure for persons with disabilities.

- Directive (EU) **2019/790** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market and amending Directives 96/9/EC and 2001/29/EC (OJ L 130, 17.5.2019, pp. 92–125)

The Directive establishes rules to harmonise EU legislation applicable to copyright and related rights in the framework of the internal market, taking digital and cross-border uses of protected content into account. Certain exceptions to copyright rules are made for users with disabilities. The Directive refers to Directive 2017/1564.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/817** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240, (EU) 2018/1726 and (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decisions 2004/512/EC and 2008/633/JHA (OJ L 135, 22.5.2019, pp. 27–84). This act has been amended.

The Regulation co-establishes, jointly with Regulation (EU) 2019/818 a framework to ensure interoperability between different EU travel, immigration and visa systems. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the processing of personal data. Particular attention must be paid to children, older persons, persons with a disability and persons in need of international protection.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/818** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) 2018/1862 and (EU) 2019/816 (OJ L 135, 22.5.2019). This act has been amended.

The Regulation co-establishes, jointly with Regulation (EU) 2019/817 a framework to ensure interoperability between different EU travel, immigration and visa systems. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the processing of personal data. Particular attention must be paid to children, older persons, persons with a disability and persons in need of international protection.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/1150** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services (OJ L 186, 11.7.2019, pp. 57–79)

The Regulation establishes rules on transparency, fairness and effective redress possibilities for business users of certain online intermediation services. When providing the information required under this Regulation, the maximum possible account should be taken of the particular needs of persons with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/2144** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on type approval requirements for motor vehicles and their trailers, and systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, as regards their general safety and the protection of vehicle occupants and “vulnerable” road users (OJ L 325, 16.12.2019, pp. 1-40). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes additional requirements for type-approval for vehicles, including those used to transport passengers with reduced mobility.

- Directive (EU) **2019/2161** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directives 98/6/EC, 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules (OJ L 328, 18.12.2019, pp. 7–28)

The Directive amends EU consumer protection legislation. It includes a reference to ‘design for all’ and requires information on consumer rights to be made available in a clear, understandable and easily accessible manner.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/690** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, pp. 1–47)

The Regulation establishes a programme for the competitiveness and sustainability of enterprises and consumer protection; for the management of expenditure in the area of plants, animals, food and feed; and for EU statistics. The Single Market Programme brings together activities that had been financed under six separate predecessor programmes. Its objectives are, on the one hand, to protect and empower consumers (including ‘vulnerable’ consumers) and businesses by facilitating access and promoting human, animal and plant health; and, on the other hand, to develop and disseminate high-quality EU statistics (including the collection of data relevant to obligations under the UNCRPD).

- Regulation (EU) **2021/694** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, pp. 1–34). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes the Digital Europe Programme and emphasises that digitalisation can improve barrier-free accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities. The specific objectives included in Annex I focus, inter alia, on digital skills training, development of e-health and mobility. Some non-EU countries are associated with the Programme.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/817** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, pp. 1–33)

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1877 of 22 October 2021 on the framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021-2027 (OJ L 378, 26.10.2021, pp. 15–21)

The Regulation establishes the Erasmus+ programme in the field of education and training, youth and sport. People with disabilities are included among ‘people with fewer opportunities. In line with Article 15 of this Regulation, Commission developed a framework of inclusion measures to increase participation of people with fewer opportunities, including those with disabilities in the programme.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/1147** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, pp. 1–47). This act has been amended.

The Fund has the general objective of contributing to support actions that contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and the development of a common policy on asylum. Certain undefined groups of ‘vulnerable persons’ must be given special attention in the actions funded by the Programme.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/1153** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 (OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, pp. 38–81). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes the Connecting Europe Facility. Measures eligible for funding under the programme include measures to improve transport infrastructure accessibility for all modes of transport and for all users, especially users with reduced mobility.

- Regulation (EU) **2022/612** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union (recast) (OJ L 115, 13.4.2022, pp. 1–37)

The Regulation provides for a common approach to pricing of communications when travelling within the EU. Roaming customers with disabilities must be provided with the basic personalised pricing information, if they so request, and a link to access a dedicated accessible webpage on alternative means of reaching emergency services.

- Regulation (EU) **2022/1925** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2022 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act) (OJ L 265, 12.10.2022, pp. 1–66)

The Regulation introduces rules for platforms that act as “gatekeepers” in the digital sector and prevents them from imposing unfair conditions on businesses and end users. It includes accessibility requirements.

- Regulation (EU) **2022/2065** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) (OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, pp. 1–102)

The Regulation encourages the drawing up of codes of conduct with the involvement of providers of online platforms and NGOs to promote accessible online content.

- Decision (EU) **2022/2481** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, pp. 4–26)

The Decision establishes the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 and sets out its monitoring and cooperation mechanism. It recognises the importance of online participation for everyone, including persons with disabilities who are defined as disadvantaged groups.

- Directive (EU) **2022/2561** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers (codification) (OJ L 330, 23.12.2022, pp. 46–69)

The Directive regulates rules and requirements for training on disability awareness for drivers of certain road vehicles.

- Regulation (EU) **2023/1230** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2023 on machinery and repealing Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 73/361/EEC (OJ L 165, 29.6.2023, pp. 1–102). This act has been amended.

The harmonised standards relevant to this Regulation should take into account the requirements of Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the UNCRPD.

- Commission Recommendation (EU) **2023/2829** of 12 December 2023 on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament (OJ L, 2023/2829, 20.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/2829/oj>)

The Commission Recommendation states that Member States should support the electoral participation of persons with disabilities, both as voters and candidates. They should also prevent and remove the barriers that persons with disabilities encounter when participating in elections, including the blanket removal of the electoral rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities without individual assessment and/or the possibility of judicial review. The Member States should ensure that polling stations are accessible, including by using means such as QR codes, Braille, large printouts, audio and easy-to-read guides, tactile stencils, magnifying glasses, extra lighting, stamps and accessible writing utensils.

- Commission Recommendation (EU) **2023/8627** on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes (OJ L, 2023/2836, 20.12.2023)

Member States should provide for ways to participate in a non-discriminatory and accessible manner without excessive formalities and free of charge. They should prevent and remove obstacles to the participation of underrepresented groups by taking special needs into account. Member States should also ensure that existing victim support services and emergency helplines are available and tailored for individuals working for civil society organisations. All support services should be easily accessible and should be provided in a confidential and non-discriminatory manner.

- Regulation (EU) **2023/2844** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2023 on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters, and amending certain acts in the field of judicial cooperation (OJ L, 2023/2844, 27.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2844/oj>)

The Regulation requires the digitalisation of proceedings to ensure access to justice for all, including persons with disabilities. The competent authority conducting the hearing must ensure that the parties and their representatives, including persons with disabilities, have access to the necessary infrastructure to use videoconference or other distance communication technology for the hearing.

- Regulation (EU) **2024/792** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Ukraine Facility (OJ L, 2024/792, 29.2.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/792/oj>)

The Regulation requires the implementation of the Ukraine Facility to be in line with the UNCRPD and to ensure relevant stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes as well as accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

- Directive (EU) **2024/1275** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 on the energy performance of buildings (recast) (OJ L, 2024/1275, 8.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1275/oj>)

The Directive protects persons with disabilities by requiring that accessibility for persons with disabilities should be addressed in relation to new buildings and existing buildings undergoing major renovation, including for residential and non-residential buildings.

- Directive (EU) **2024/1385** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence (OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj>)

The Directive requires the Member States to pay due regard to victims affected by intersectional discrimination by taking specific measures. When assessing victims' protection and support needs, the primary concern must be to ensure their safety and provide tailored support – taking into account, inter alia, their individual circumstances. One-stop

online access for support should comply with accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2024/1449** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans (OJ L, 2024/1449, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1449/oj>)

The Regulation requires that the implementation of the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans must ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance. Moreover, beneficiaries and the Commission must take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination, including on grounds of disability, throughout the preparation of the reform agendas and the implementation of the Facility.

- Council Directive (EU) **2024/1499** of 7 May 2024 on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment between persons irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation between persons irrespective of their religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, equal treatment between women and men in matters of social security and in the access to and supply of goods and services, and amending Directives 2000/43/EC and 2004/113/EC (OJ L, 2024/1499, 29.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1499/oj>)

The Council Directive strengthens the role and independence of equality bodies whose aim is to promote equal treatment, combat discrimination and offer assistance to victims. It ensures accessibility and the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in order to guarantee their equal access to all services and activities of equality bodies (including assistance to victims, complaint handling, alternative dispute resolution, information and publications, as well as prevention, promotion and awareness-raising activities).

- Regulation (EU) **2024/1679** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (OJ L, 2024/1679, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj>)

The Regulation requires the trans-European transport infrastructure to allow seamless mobility and accessibility for all users and in particular for people in situations of transport poverty or vulnerability – including persons with disabilities or reduced mobility.

- Regulation (EU) **2024/1689** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU)

2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>)

The Regulation protects persons with disabilities from possibility of biased results of the use of AI systems. Such systems may be particularly intrusive and may violate, for example, the right to education and training as well as the right not to be discriminated against. They may also perpetuate historical patterns of discrimination. The Regulation also obliges providers to ensure the full compliance of AI systems with accessibility requirements.

- Directive (EU) **2024/1760** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on corporate sustainability due diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Regulation (EU) 2023/2859 (OJ L, 2024/1760, 5.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj>). This act has been amended.

The Directive protects persons with disabilities by requiring companies to pay special attention to the risks for vulnerable stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, when carrying out human rights and environmental due diligence, and in this regard to take into consideration the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Additionally, it requires companies to establish an accessible procedure for dealing with complaints regarding adverse impacts in their own operations, those of their subsidiaries or in their value chain.

- Directive (EU) **2024/1799** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on common rules promoting the repair of goods and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 and Directives (EU) 2019/771 and (EU) 2020/1828 (OJ L, 2024/1799, 10.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1799/oj>)

The Directive protects persons with disabilities by making it easier to access the EU online platform for the repair of goods for persons with disabilities.

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/12](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on the collection and transfer of advance passenger information for enhancing and facilitating external border checks, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1726 and (EU) 2019/817, and repealing Council Directive 2004/82/EC (OJ L, 2025/12, 8.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/12/oj>)

The Regulation obliges air carriers to offer accessible alternatives for providing required machine-readable data, e.g for those who cannot use online or automated means. The Regulation refers to ensuring “inclusive and accessible travel options” for persons with disabilities.

- Council Regulation (EU) **2025/1208** of 12 June 2025 on strengthening the security of identity cards of Union citizens and of residence documents issued to Union citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement (OJ L, 2025/1208, 20.6.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1208/oj>)

This Regulation strengthens the security standards applicable to identity cards and residence documents issued by Member States. It encourages making such documents accessible and user-friendly for persons with disabilities.

4.1. IN THE FIELD OF INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

- Council Decision **83/516/EEC** of 17 October 1983 on the tasks of the European Social Fund (OJ L 289, 22.10.1983, p. 38), as amended by Council Decision of 20 December 1985 amending, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal, Decision 83/516/EEC on the tasks of the European Social Fund (OJ L 370, 31.12.1985, p. 40–40)

The Council Decision lays down some activities that can be financed by the ESF, such as vocational training courses and the promotion of employment and geographical mobility for all – including people with disabilities.

- Council Directive **89/654/EEC** of 30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace (first individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (OJ L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 1), as amended by Directive 2007/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 amending Council Directive 89/391/EEC, its individual Directives and Council Directives 83/477/EEC, 91/383/EEC, 92/29/EEC and 94/33/EC with a view to simplifying and rationalising the reports on practical implementation (OJ L 165, 27.6.2007, pp. 21–24), and as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1243 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 adapting a number of legal acts providing for the use of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, pp. 241–344).

This act provides rules applicable to the workplace to protect the health and safety of workers. Workplaces must be organised to take account of the needs of workers with disabilities, especially regarding the accessibility of the working environment.

- Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 of 7 May 1998 on the application of Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty establishing the European Community to certain categories of horizontal State aid (OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, pp. 1-4, repealed and replaced by Council Regulation (EU) 2015/1588 of 13 July 2015 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to certain categories of horizontal State aid (codification) (OJ L 248, , pp. 1–8), and the related Commission Regulation (EU) No **651/2014** of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid

compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, p. 1). This act has been amended.

The Commission Regulation enables EU governments to pay higher amounts of public money to a wider range of companies without first having to obtain the Commission's permission. It also lays down the rules for authorising State aids to promote the recruitment and employment of disadvantaged workers, including persons with disabilities.

- Council Directive **2000/78/EC** of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16) ⁽⁵⁸⁾

This act ensures the equal treatment of individuals in the workplace in the EU, regardless of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

- Council Directive **2003/96/EC** of 27 October 2003 restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity (OJ L 283, 31.10.2003, p. 51) ⁽⁵⁹⁾. This act has been amended.

This act sets out the principles and minimum levels of energy taxation in the EU (including the possibility of a total or partial exemption for electricity from renewable sources and biofuels). In addition, the Member States may apply differentiated rates of taxation (not lower than the minima set in the Directive) for use of energy by/for people with disabilities.

- Regulation (EC) **883/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems (OJ L 166, 30.4.2004, PP. 1-123).

The Regulation coordinates social security legislation and systems between Member States, including as regards disability allowances. This act has been amended.

- Council Decision **2005/600/EC** of 12 July 2005 on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p. 21)

This act sets out eight guidelines for increasing employment in the EU, for example by improving inclusion of people at a disadvantage

⁵⁸⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence*, in the Annex II of the Council decision of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁵⁹⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence*, in the Annex II of the Council decision of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

(including persons with a disability), greater investment in human resources, adaptation of education and training systems and more flexibility combined with job security.

- Council Directive **2006/112/EC** of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax (OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1), as amended by Council Directive (EU) 2022/542 as regards rates of value added tax (OJ L 107 6.4.2022 , p. 18) ⁽⁶⁰⁾

This act establishes the EU's common system of value added tax (VAT), thus providing the main EU VAT legislation currently in force. It states that reduced tax rates may be applied, inter alia, to (i) medical equipment, appliances, devices, items, aids and protective gear, including health protection masks, normally intended for use in health care or for the use of the disabled, goods essential to compensate and overcome disability ⁽⁶¹⁾; and (ii) domestic care services such as home help and care for the young, older and sick persons, and persons with a disability ⁽⁶²⁾.

- Council Decision **2006/6/EC** and Euratom of 12 December 2005 adopting the rules laying down the procedure for granting financial aid to supplement the pension of a surviving spouse who has a serious or protracted illness or who is disabled (OJ L 5, 10.1.2006, p. 15)

This act provides for financial support for EU civil servants' surviving spouses that are ill or have disabilities.

- Directive **2006/54/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 23) ⁽⁶³⁾

This act prohibits discrimination between men and women concerning the conditions of recruitment, access to employment, dismissals, training, promotion and membership of workers' or employers' organisations. Social security schemes for workers need to address the needs of vulnerable groups.

- Directive **2008/104/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work (OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 9)

⁽⁶⁰⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence*, in the Annex II of the Council decision of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁶¹⁾ Point (4) of Annex III of Council Directive 2006/112/EC.

⁽⁶²⁾ Point (20) of Annex III of Council Directive 2006/112/EC.

⁽⁶³⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence*, in the Annex II of the Council decision of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

This act improves the protection of temporary agency workers working within the EU by ensuring equal treatment as regards their basic working and employment conditions. It prohibits disability-based discrimination with regard to temporary workers.

- Regulation (EC) **987/2009** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems (OJ L 284, 30.10.2009, p. 1). This act has been amended.

The Regulation specifies the legislation which a Member State must apply in a given case in the context of social security systems. The principle of e-accessibility for older persons and persons with a disability must be taken into account in exchanges between Member States' authorities and persons covered by the Regulation.

- Regulation (EC) **988/2009** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems and determining the content of its Annexes (OJ L 284, 30.10.2009, p. 43).

The Regulation aims at coordinating social security legislation and systems between Member States. Its scope includes disability allowances.

- Council Regulation (EC) **1186/2009** of 16 November 2009 setting up a Community system of reliefs from customs duty (OJ L 324, 10.12.2009, p. 23–57) and the related Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **1224/2011** of 28 November 2011 for the purposes of Articles 66 to 73 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009 setting up a Community system of reliefs from customs duty (OJ L 314, 29.11.2011, p. 14–19).

This act allows the granting of relief from the duties that would normally be payable on goods that are imported into and exported from the EU. It sets out the cases in which relief from import and export duties can be granted. It contains a whole chapter on goods for charitable or philanthropic organisations (such as articles intended for the blind and other persons with disabilities that can benefit from relief).

The Implementing Regulation lays down provisions for the implementation of Articles 66 to 73 of Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009. The provisions on disability were kept, and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1224/2011 contains some specific provisions on the admission – free of import duties – of articles for the use of persons with disabilities.

- Council Directive **2009/47/EC** of 5 May 2009 amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards reduced rates of value added tax (OJ L 116, 9.5.2009, p. 18)

The Council Directive amends Council Directive 2006/112/EC as regards reduced rates of value added tax. It keeps all the previous references to disability.

- Directive **2009/81/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the coordination of procedures for the award of certain works contracts, supply contracts and service contracts by contracting authorities or entities in the fields of defence and security and amending Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC (OJ L 216, 20.8.2009, pp. 76–136). This act has been amended.

The Directive establishes the procedures for the award of public contracts in the field of defence and security. It allows Member States to reserve the right to participate in contract award procedures to sheltered workshops or to provide for such contracts to be performed in the context of sheltered employment programmes that employ persons with disabilities.

- Council Directive **2009/132/EC** of 19 October 2009 determining the scope of Article 143(b) and (c) of Directive 2006/112/EC as regards exemption from value added tax on the final importation of certain goods (OJ L 292, 10.11.2009, p. 5–30) This act has been changed.

The Council Directive defines the scope of certain exemptions from VAT and the rules for their implementation. It contains an entire chapter on articles imported for the benefit of blind or other persons with disabilities that can be exempt.

- Council Decision **2010/707/EU** of 21 October 2010 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (OJ L 308, 24.11.2010, p. 46)

These guidelines provide direction for the coordination of EU Member States' employment policies. They should guarantee equal employment opportunities, and should combat discrimination and social exclusion, including as regards persons with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU, Euratom) **1023/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 amending the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (OJ L 287, 29.10.2013, p. 15)

The Staff Regulations provide a legal framework for attracting, recruiting and maintaining highly qualified and multilingual staff within the EU institutions. The amending Regulation among other points aligns the definition of persons with disabilities with the UNCRPD. It also keeps the notion of reasonable accommodation and provisions with respect to EU staff members' family members with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **1305/2013** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund

for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487–548). This act has been amended.

The Regulation sets out how the EAFRD aims to develop rural areas in 2014-2020 to make them more geographically and environmentally balanced, climate-friendly, resilient, competitive and innovative. It sets as a priority the promotion of social inclusion in rural areas, complementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013, which lays down common provisions for all the EU ESI Funds. The Member States are therefore obliged to combat discrimination based, among others, on disability, and should guarantee accessibility to people with disabilities while implementing the programmes and Funds.

- Regulation (EU) **516/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168). This act has been amended.

This regulation establishes the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, which aims to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and improve the implementation and development of the EU's common policy on immigration and asylum. There is a need for extra protection for, and assistance to, vulnerable persons.

- Directive (EU) **2015/2366** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35). This act has been amended.

This act provides the legal basis for the further development of a better integrated internal market for electronic payments within the EU. The obligation to inform consumers of their rights includes the provision of information formats that are accessible for persons with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2016/589** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 107, 22.4.2016, pp. 1–28). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes a framework for cooperation to facilitate the exercise of the freedom of movement of workers within the EU. It includes a provision to ensure that persons with disabilities can access the information provided on the EURES portal as well as the national mobility support services available to workers and employers under the Regulation.

- Decision (EU) **2018/646** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 April 2018 on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass) and repealing Decision No 2241/2004/EC (OJ L 112, 2.5.2018, PP. 42-50)

The Decision commits the EU to ensuring accessibility of the Europass web-based tools and gives the Commission the task of using the latest technological developments to enable this.

- Directive (EU) **2019/944** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU (recast) (OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, pp. 125–199). This act has been amended.

The Directive establishes common rules for the generation, transmission, distribution, energy storage and supply of electricity, together with consumer protection provisions.

Energy consumption comparison tools should be accessible for persons with disabilities.

- Directive (EU) **2019/1158** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU (OJ L 188, 12.7.2019, pp. 79–93)

The Directive establishes minimum requirements to achieve equality between men and women regarding labour market opportunities and treatment at work. It facilitates the reconciliation of work and family life for workers who are parents or carers and encourages Member States to give specific consideration to the needs of parents with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/523** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, pp. 30–89). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes the InvestEU Fund, which provides an EU guarantee to support financing and investment operations carried out by the Fund's implementing partners. Promoting inclusion of and accessibility for persons with disabilities is one of the measures eligible for investment.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/691** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, pp. 48–70)

This Act establishes the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to support workers displaced by globalisation or crises, requiring inclusive employment assistance. It promotes equal access to training, job search support, and reintegration measures, ensuring that persons with disabilities can benefit from tailored, non-discriminatory support programmes.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/692** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, pp. 1–20)

The Regulation establishes the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme. Protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities is one of the main focus areas of the Programme. The Programme is open to participation from non-EU countries.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/693** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, pp. 21–38)

The Regulation establishes the Programme to contribute to the further development of an EU area of justice based on the rule of law. Disability is mainstreamed across all the Programme's areas and non-discrimination is to be guaranteed. Awareness-raising can be funded under the Programme.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/695** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, pp. 1–68). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes Horizon Europe and sets out the rules for participation and dissemination concerning indirect actions under the Programme, as well as for determining the framework governing EU support for R&I activities over the same period. Activities funded under the Programme should aim to eliminate inequalities and promote equality and diversity in all aspects of R&I with regard to disability. The Programme is open to participation by non-EU countries.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/818** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, pp. 34–60)

The Regulation establishes the Creative Europe Programme. Objectives must be pursued in a way that encourages inclusion, equality, diversity and participation. Particular actions to ensure that people with disabilities have access to culture and actively participate in it are encouraged.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/1057** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, pp. 21–59). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes the ESF+. This helps Member States and regions to achieve high employment levels, fair social protection and a skilled and resilient workforce, as well as inclusive and cohesive societies. The inclusion of persons with disabilities and accessibility of the Fund's activities to them is a horizontal principle.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/1058** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, pp. 60–93). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes the Fund in order to invest in infrastructure and reduce the disparities between EU regions. It promotes accessibility and the transition to community-based care.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/1060** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, pp. 159–706). This act has been amended.

- Directive (EU) **2022/2041** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union (OJ L 275, 25.10.2022, pp. 33–47).

The Directive establishes a framework to ensure adequate minimum wages across the European Union. It promotes fair working conditions, strengthens collective bargaining, and requires non-discriminatory wage protection, ensuring that workers, including persons with disabilities, benefit from equal pay safeguards and improved access to adequate minimum wage protection.

- Council Decision (EU) **2022/2296** of 21 November 2022 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (OJ L 304, 24.11.2022, pp. 67–77)

The Decision sets out a set of employment guidelines for Member States, including to support a work environment adapted for persons with disabilities.

- Directive (EU) **2022/2464** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting (OJ L 322, 16.12.2022, pp. 15–80). This act has been amended.

The Directive regulates the requirements for sustainability reporting of private undertakings, including reporting on diversity, social inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- Council Decision (EU) **2023/2528** of 9 October 2023 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (OJ L, 2023/2528, 14.11.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/2528/oj>)

The decision promotes the potential of persons with disabilities to contribute to economic growth and social development, in line with the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which invited Member States to set up employment and adult learning targets for persons with disabilities. Equal access and opportunities persons with disabilities should be ensured and poverty and social exclusion, should be reduced, in particular by ensuring an effective functioning of labour markets and adequate and inclusive social protection systems.

- Decision (EU) **2023/936** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 on a European Year of Skills (OJ L 125, 11.5.2023, pp. 1–11)

The Decision sets out that the European Year of Skills should be implemented in a manner that is inclusive and actively promotes equality for all. It aims to ensure that persons with disabilities can take part in training and learn new skills, as a fundamental requisite for employment and independence.

- Council Recommendation of **27 November 2023** on developing social economy framework conditions (ST/14113/2023/INIT) (OJ C, C/2023/1344, 29.11.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1344/oj>)

The Council Recommendation urges Member States to support social economy entities with a view of better integrating disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities, into the labour market and to involve social economy entities into design and delivery of people-centred social and care services.

- Commission Recommendation (EU) **2024/1238** of 23 April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child (OJ L, 2024/1238, 14.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/1238/oj>)

The Commission Recommendation emphasises the importance of protection of children with characteristics related to causes of discrimination who are more likely to face bullying and recommends the Member States to take a number of measures to ensure inclusive child protection systems and accelerate de-institutionalisation and the transition towards quality family- and community-based care services for children with disabilities.

- Directive (EU) **2024/1788** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on common rules for the internal markets for renewable gas, natural gas and hydrogen, amending Directive (EU) 2023/1791 and repealing Directive 2009/73/EC

(recast), Text with EAA relevance (OJ L, 2024/1788, 15.7.2024, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1788/oj>)

The Directive requires Member States to protect vulnerable customers, a category that may include persons with disabilities, through safeguards against energy poverty, fair contractual conditions, and transparent information. Measures must prevent unjustified disconnection, ensure accessible consumer information and comparison tools, and consider vulnerable users' needs during gas network phase-outs and market reforms.

4.2. IN THE FIELD OF PERSONAL MOBILITY

- Council Directive **2003/86/EC** of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification (OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12)

The Council Directive sets the conditions under which non-EU nationals residing lawfully on the territory of EU Member States may exercise the right to family reunification. Disability cannot be the reason for withdrawing a residence permit or removing the person from a Member State.

- Council Regulation (EEC) No **3922/91** of 16 December 1991 on the harmonization of technical requirements and administrative procedures in the field of civil aviation (OJ L 373, 31.12.1991, pp. 4–8) and the related Commission Regulation (EC) **8/2008** of 11 December 2007 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91 as regards common technical requirements and administrative procedures applicable to commercial transportation by aeroplane (OJ L 10, 12.1.2008, p. 1) ⁽⁶⁴⁾.

The Commission Regulation prescribes some specific requirements that are applicable to any operator of any aeroplane for the purpose of commercial air transport registered within the EU.

- Regulation (EC) **261/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights, repealing Regulation (EEC) No 295/91 (OJ L 46, 17.2.2004, p. 1) ⁽⁶⁵⁾.

This act establishes common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights. It includes obligations on airline companies to give

⁽⁶⁴⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁶⁵⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

preferential treatment to passengers with disabilities in the event of flight disruptions.

- Regulation (EC) **1107/2006** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air, Text with EEA relevance (OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 1) ⁽⁶⁶⁾. This act has been amended.

The Regulation grants several rights to air travellers with disabilities. Persons with disabilities cannot be denied boarding or booking, except for safety reasons or design of aircraft, They are entitled to receive free of charge assistance at airports, with boarding and onboard aircraft. Air carriers must transport up to two pieces of mobility equipment under certain conditions and subject to 48 hours' notice.

- Regulation (EC) **1899/2006** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91 on the harmonisation of technical requirements and administrative procedures in the field of civil aviation (OJ L 377, 27.12.2006, p. 1) ⁽⁶⁷⁾.

It introduces various technical and procedural requirements in the field of aviation, The Regulation introduces various technical and procedural requirements in the field of civil aviation that are applicable to all aeroplanes within the EU. Several of the requirements are for the benefit of passengers with disabilities.

- Directive **2006/126/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences (OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 18) ⁽⁶⁸⁾. Repealed by Directive (EU) 2025/2205 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2025 on driving licences, amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive (EU) 2022/2561 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EU) No 383/2012 (OJ L, 2025/2205, 5.11.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/2205/oj>).

The Directive introduces a new EU driving licence that ensures greater freedom of movement to EU drivers and reinforces road safety. It also

⁽⁶⁶⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁶⁷⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁶⁸⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and with further amendments is still in force.

contains several provisions regulating the issuing of driving licences to persons with disabilities and was further amended by Commission Directive 2009/113/EC as regards medical conditions that must be considered while granting driving licences.

- Regulation (EC) No **216/2008** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Council Directive 91/670/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 and Directive 2004/36/EC (OJ L 79, 19.3.2008, pp. 1–49), repealed by Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and amending Regulations (EC) No 2111/2005, (EC) No 1008/2008, (EU) No 996/2010, (EU) No 376/2014 and Directives 2014/30/EU and 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 552/2004 and (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91 (OJ L 212, , pp. 1–122).

Commission Regulation (EC) **965/2012** of 5 October 2012 laying down technical requirements and administrative procedures related to air operations pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 296, 25.10.2012, p. 1-148)

The Commission Regulation lays down technical requirements and administrative procedures related to air operations pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

- Commission Directive **2009/113/EC** of 25 August 2009 amending Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on driving licences (OJ L 223, 26.8.2009, p. 31–35)

The Commission Directive amends Annex III to Directive 2006/126/EC by identifying eyesight, diabetes and epilepsy as medical conditions that affect fitness to drive and need to be considered by Member States when they grant driving licences. The Directive 2006/126/EC therefore contains several provisions regulating the issuing of driving licences.

- Regulation (EU) No **1177/2010** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 1)

The Regulation gives persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility travelling by sea and inland waterways the same opportunities as other persons have through provisions of non-discrimination on the basis of disability and free assistance to have access to waterborne transport.

- Regulation (EU) **181/2011** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 1)

The Regulation gives passengers with a disability or reduced mobility and travelling by bus and coach enjoy the same rights as other passengers wherever they travel in the EU. These rights complement similar regulations for passengers in air, rail and waterborne transport.

- Directive **2014/33/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to lifts and safety components for lifts (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 251–308)

The Directive lays down uniform rules on the sale and putting into service of lifts and safety components for lifts. It applies to lifts that permanently serve buildings and constructions and that are intended for the transport of persons and goods, but it does not apply to funicular railways, hoists and escalators or walkways. It requires the Member States to comply with the rules set by the UNCRPD and therefore obliges them to use lifts that allow use by persons with a disability, where their dimensions permit.

- Directive **2014/36/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 375–390)

The Directive sets out the conditions for non-EU citizens wishing to work in the EU's Member States for short periods as seasonal workers (often in agriculture and tourism). It includes rights to ensure that they are not exploited, that they are treated equally with nationals and that they are not discriminated on the basis of, among other factors, disability.

- Regulation (EU) **2016/399** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1–52). This act has been amended.

The Regulation lays down some common EU rules on the crossing of the EU's internal borders by persons and on border control at the EU's external borders. It states in particular that, while carrying out border checks, border guards must not discriminate against persons on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation; and should respect the human dignity of a person.

- Directive (EU) **2016/801** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21–57)

The Directive simplifies and streamlines the existing provisions for several categories of non-EU nationals coming to the EU for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing. Member States must

not discriminate against them on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinions, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

- Regulation (EU) **2018/1240** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and amending Regulations (EU) No 1077/2011, (EU) No 515/2014, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2-16/1624 and (EU) 2017/2226 (OJ L 236, 19.9.2018, pp. 1–71). This act has been amended.

The Regulation prohibits disability discrimination against ETIAS applicants and provides for accessible online application platforms.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/1896** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624 (OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, pp. 1–131)

The Regulation obliges border management teams, migration management support teams and return teams to respect the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including non-discrimination on grounds such as disability. Operational activities must identify and protect persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/782** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 on rail passengers' rights and obligations (recast) repealing Regulation (EC) **1371/2007** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations (OJ L 315, 3.12.2007, p. 14)⁶⁹ (OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, pp. 1–52)

The act aims to improve the quality of rail services and protect passengers' rights across EU Member States to improve the efficiency and attractiveness of rail transport. The Regulation includes specific provisions to ensure that passengers with disabilities and with reduced mobility can travel on an equal footing with other passengers and receive appropriate, free of charge assistance and information during rail travel.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/888** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014 (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, pp. 32–54)

The Regulation provides for funding for the engagement of young people (including those with fewer opportunities, such as persons with disabilities) in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, and primarily volunteering. It encourages the adoption of specific measures (including reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities) to promote social inclusion.

⁶⁹ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

- Directive (EU) **2022/2561** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers (codification) (Text with EEA relevance) (OJ L 330, 23.12.2022, pp. 46–69)

The Directive requires professional driver training to include awareness of disability and reduced mobility. It ensures drivers are trained to assist passengers with disabilities safely and respectfully, including boarding, communication, and handling mobility equipment.

- Regulation (EU) **2024/1679** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 establishes guidelines for developing the trans-European transport network (TEN-T), aiming for a reliable, multimodal, and sustainable transport infrastructure across Europe (OJ L, 2024/1679, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj>)

The TEN-T Regulation sets out a long-term strategy for the development of a complete trans-EU transport network consisting of infrastructure for railways, maritime and air transport, roads, inland waterways and rail-road terminals, covers the technical standards as well as the requirements for interoperability of infrastructures. Accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities or reduced mobility and other people in situations of vulnerability is one of its priorities.

- Directive (EU) **2024/2841** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 establishing the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities (OJ L, 2024/2841, 14.11.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2841/oj>)

The Directive establishes the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities. The cards strengthen the exercise of the free movement rights of persons with disabilities in the context of a short stay in another EU Member State. When travelling in the EU, access to special conditions and preferential treatment offered to persons with disabilities from one Member State for a wide variety of services, activities or facilities (including the parking) one, must be granted on terms and conditions equivalent to those provided to persons with disabilities in any other Member State that they visit.

- Directive (EU) **2024/2842** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 extending Directive (EU) 2024/2841 to third-country nationals legally residing in a Member State (OJ L, 2024/2842, 14.11.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2842/oj>)

The Directive extends the scope of Directive (EU) 2024/2841 to non-EU nationals legally residing in a Member State.

4.3. — REGARDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- Directive **2000/31/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market (Directive on electronic commerce) (OJ L 178, 17.7.2000, p. 1) ⁽⁷⁰⁾. This act has been amended.

This act establishes standard rules in the EU on various issues related to electronic commerce (e.g. selling, advertising and sponsorship). Member States and the EU are required to encourage the involvement of associations representing the visually impaired and disabled people in drafting and implementing codes of conduct that affect their interests.

- Directive **2001/29/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society (OJ L 167, 22.6.2001, p. 10) ⁽⁷¹⁾. This act has been amended.

The Directive aims to adapt legislation on copyright and related rights to technological developments (particularly to the information society), while also providing a high level of protection of such rights. It also allows Member States to introduce exceptions or limitations to copyright and related rights in respect of uses for the benefit of people with a disability.

- Directive **2001/83/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use (OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, p. 67), as amended by Directive 2004/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use (OJ L 136, 30.4.2004, p. 34) ⁽⁷²⁾. This act has been amended.

The Directive brings together all the existing provisions in force on the sale, production, labelling, classification, distribution and advertising of medicinal products for human use in the EU. Directive 2004/27/EC (listed below), which adds provisions requiring accessibility of medicinal products for persons with visual impairments. The act now provides common guidelines for medical products used within the EU as regards their authorisation, availability and packaging. One of its requirements is

⁽⁷⁰⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁷¹⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁷²⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and with further amendments is still in force.

that the packaging of medicinal products must include a label in Braille and that the information leaflet must be available in formats accessible to visually impaired users.

- Directive **2005/29/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer practices in the internal market, amending Council Directive 84/450/EEC, Directives 97/7/EC, 98/27/EC and 2002/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Unfair Commercial Practices Directive) (OJ L 149, 11.6.2005, p. 22) ⁽⁷³⁾.

The Directive defines the commercial practices which are prohibited in the EU. It thus protects the economic interests of consumers (including the most vulnerable) before, during and after a commercial transaction.

- Directive **2010/13/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audio-visual media services (Audio-visual Media Services Directive) (OJ L 95, 15.4.2010, p. 1)

This act aims to produce a framework for cross-border audiovisual media services in order to strengthen the internal programme production and distribution market, and to guarantee conditions of fair competition. Member States must encourage media service providers to make their services accessible to people with a visual or hearing disability, and to avoid disability-based discrimination in audiovisual commercial communications.

- Directive **2011/83/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 64). This act has been amended.

This act seeks to increase consumer protection by harmonising at EU level several key aspects of national legislation on contracts between customers and sellers. Information provided to consumers must take account of the specific needs of consumers who are particularly vulnerable.

- Directive (EU) **2015/2302** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on package travel and linked travel arrangements, amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 90/314/EEC (OJ L 326, 11.12.2015, p. 1–33) ⁽⁷⁴⁾.

⁽⁷³⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁷⁴⁾ This directive amended the Directive **2011/83/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights (OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 64) that sought to

This act aims to introduce a high and uniform level of consumer protection within the EU in relation to contracts for travel packages and linked travel arrangements (i.e. a combination of at least two different types of travel service), taking into account the increasing use of internet booking. It requires the trader to provide the traveller with all necessary information before purchasing a package. A trader providing this information must take into account the specific needs of travellers who are particularly vulnerable because of their age or physical infirmity.

- Directive (EU) **2023/970** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms (OJ L 132, 17.5.2023, pp. 21–44)

The Directive ensures that persons with disabilities have adequate access to the information that has been provided, pursuant to the Directive, to applicants for employment and workers. Such information should be provided to those persons, taking into account their particular disabilities, in an appropriate format and form of assistance and support to ensure their access to and comprehension of the information.

- Regulation (EU) **2023/988** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 on general product safety, amending Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and the Council, and repealing Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 87/357/EEC (OJ L 135, 23.5.2023, pp. 1–51)

The Regulation requires the safety of a product to be assessed – considering all the product’s relevant aspects as well as the specific needs and risks which the product represents for certain categories of consumers (including persons with disabilities). It also protects persons with disabilities by ensuring that they have access to information about the product (including through the Safety Gate Portal) and accessible communication channels to submit complaints.

4.4. REGARDING STATISTICS AND DATA COLLECTION

- Council Regulation (EC) **No 168/2007** of 15 February 2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (OJ L 53, 22.2.2007, p. 1)

This act establishes a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights that will provide assistance and expertise on fundamental rights within

increase consumer protection by harmonising at EU level several key aspects of national legislation on contracts between customers and sellers. The information provided to consumers had to take account of the specific needs of consumers who were particularly vulnerable. Both of these directives are still in force.

the EU and will support the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Agency is not disability-specific, but it can be (and is) mandated to carry out disability-specific research.

- Regulation (EC) **458/2007** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 April 2007 on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS) (OJ L 113, 30.4.2007, p. 3) with related implementing regulations ⁽⁷⁵⁾.

The Regulation establishes the EU system of integrated social protection statistics, providing a legal framework to improve the usefulness of current data collections in terms of timeliness, coverage and comparability. Disability pensions are included.

- Regulation (EC) **1338/2008** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 70) ⁽⁷⁶⁾. This act has been amended.

The Regulation sets rules for how statistics on public health and on health and safety at work should be collected and presented. The aim is to ensure comparable data across all EU Member States. This will in turn help the EU produce effective public health policy and support national strategies in this field. The Regulation calls on the Member States and the Commission to collect statistical material on the situation of people with disabilities (including on the development of services and benefits for this group). It also obliges them to assess the effectiveness of disability policies.

Commission Regulation (EU) **2015/359** of 4 March 2015 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 as regards statistics on healthcare expenditure and financing (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 70)

This act sets rules for how statistics on public health and health and safety at work should be collected and presented in order to provide comparable data across all EU Member States. One of the thematic areas of data collection is physical and mental functioning and disability.

- Council Decision **252/2013/EU** of 11 March 2013 establishing a Multiannual Framework for 2013-2017 for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (OJ L 79, 21.3.2013, p. 1)

⁽⁷⁵⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

⁽⁷⁶⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

The Council Decision mentions the main thematic objectives of FRA for the 2013-2017 reference period. These include discrimination on the grounds of disability.

- Regulation (EU) **2016/679** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1–88). This act has been amended.

The Regulation seeks to further harmonise the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons within the EU in respect of processing activities as well as to ensure the free flow of personal data between Member States. However, EU Member States are obliged to ensure that the protection of personal data does not lead to physical, material or non-material damage of persons (particularly the most vulnerable).

- Directive (EU) **2016/680** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 89–131). This act has been amended.

The Directive lays down general rules to protect natural persons in relation to the processing of personal data for the purposes of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and to ensure the free movement of personal data within the EU. It states that personal health data should include all data pertaining to the health status of a person. These data reveal information relating to past, current or future physical or mental health status (including disability).

- Directive (EU) **2016/681** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 132–149)

The Directive regulates the transfer of passenger information data by air carriers to the competent national authorities for the purpose of improving border controls and combating serious crimes and terrorism. Its objectives include ensuring security, protecting the life and safety of persons, and creating a legal framework for the protection of PNR data with regard to their processing by competent authorities. When using and protecting the data, competent authorities must not discriminate on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

- Regulation (EU) **2019/1700** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, amending Regulations (EC) No 808/2004, (EC) No 452/2008 and (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 (OJ L 261I, 14.10.2019, pp. 1–32)

The Regulation establishes a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples of persons and households. All data collected in the areas identified by the instrument (labour force; income and living conditions; health; education and training; use of information and communication technologies; time use; consumption) should be disaggregated by disability. Feasibility and pilot studies launched by the Commission can target the improvement of data collection methodologies with a view to enhancing participation by persons with disabilities.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2019/2181** of 16 December 2019 specifying technical characteristics as regards items common to several datasets pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 330, 20.12.2019, pp. 16–41)

This Regulation lays down the technical characteristics of the statistical populations and observation units, as well as descriptions of variables and of the statistical classifications, for items common to several data sets covered by Regulation (EU) 2019/1700. One of the variables common to several datasets is “Limitation in activities because of health problems”.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2019/2240** of 16 December 2019 specifying the technical items of the data set, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the labour force domain in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Text with EEA relevance) (OJ L 336, 30.12.2019, pp. 59–124).

Under the topic “Health: status and disability, access to, availability and use of health care and health determinants”, a variable on “Limitation in activities because of a health problem” is included.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2019/2242** of 16 December 2019 specifying the technical items of data sets, establishing the technical formats and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the income and living conditions domain pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Text with EEA relevance) (OJ L 336, 30.12.2019, pp. 133–273)

The Regulation introduces EU-SILC survey datasets collecting statistics on disability and activity limitations within income and living-conditions data. These include variables on long-standing health problems, limitations in usual activities due to health (disability severity), health status, and access to services, enabling analysis of poverty, social exclusion, and living conditions of persons with disabilities.

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) **2020/256** of 16 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing a multiannual rolling planning (OJ L 54, 26.2.2020, pp. 1–8). This act has been amended.

The Delegated Regulation implements the common framework for European statistics, outlining the periodicity for collecting different types of data (including data on health status and disability).

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) **2020/258** of 16 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the number and the titles of the variables for the income and living conditions domain (Text with EAA relevance) (OJ L 54, 26.2.2020, pp. 16–28)

The Regulation specifies EU-SILC variables relating to disability and health, including long-standing health problems, limitations in usual activities (disability severity), general health status, and unmet healthcare needs. These variables enable statistical analysis of income, poverty, and social exclusion among persons with disabilities within the EU income and living-conditions framework.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2021/861** of 21 May 2021 specifying the technical items of the data set and establishing the technical formats for transmission of information on the organisation of a sample survey in the education and training domain pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Text with EEA relevance).

The Regulation defines detailed variables to be collected every 6 years from 2022 for the Adult Education Survey (AES). The AES provides an overview of adult learning, i.e. of the participation of adults in education and training, meaning in formal, non-formal, and informal learning. It includes variables on self-perceived health and activity limitations due to health problems.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2022/2094** of 28 October 2022 specifying the technical items of data sets, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the consumption domain pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 281, 31.10.2022, pp. 23–52)

The Regulation introduces the EU Household Budget Survey datasets focusing on the collection of data on households' expenditure on goods and services. Among the detailed topics it includes Disability and Minimum European Health Module.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2022/2498** of 9 December 2022 specifying technical items of data sets of the sample survey in the income and living conditions domain on access to services pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Regulation defines detailed variables to be collected every 6 years from 2024 in EU-SILC for measuring access to essential services, including long-term care. In the context of long-term care, it focuses on whether people can access professional home care and support services, capturing aspects such as usage, affordability, availability, and unmet needs.

- Commission Regulation (EU) **2023/2529** of 17 November 2023 specifying the technical items of the data set, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the health domain pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L, 2023/2529, 20.11.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/2529/oj).

The Commission Regulation specifies the technical items of the data set, establishes the technical formats for the transmission of information from Member States to the Commission as regards the health domain. Among the detailed topics it includes functional limitations, difficulties in personal care activities, difficulties in household activities, barriers to participation in specific life domains.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2025/1322** of 4 July 2025 specifying the technical items of the data set, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the use of information and communication technologies domain for reference year 2026 pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Regulation defines survey variables that gathers information on access to and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) by households and individuals. It includes bi-annually variable 'Limitation in activities because of health problems'.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/690** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (Text with EEA relevance) (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, pp. 1–47)

The Regulation establishes the Single Market Programme and supports the production of European statistics, including data relevant to persons with disabilities. By funding statistical activities under the EU statistical framework, it enables the collection and analysis of social, economic, and living-conditions data, helping monitor inequality, accessibility, and inclusion of persons with disabilities across the EU.

4.5. — IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Commission Regulation (EC) **718/2007** of 12 June 2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) (OJ L 170, 29.6.2007, p. 1) ⁽⁷⁷⁾

This act aims to provide pre-accession assistance to relevant countries and support them in their transition through to EU membership. This act has been amended.

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) **2015/2093** of 18 November 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) (OJ L 303, 20.11.2015, p. 3–6)

This act amends the regulations on IPA and provides for the possibility of using EU trust funds to implement pre-accession assistance. The act refers to aid for refugees in Syria, stating that Syria is facing the challenge of responding to the humanitarian needs of refugees (including minors and vulnerable persons) and that the EU should assist with it.

- Partnership Agreement **2000/483/EC** between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (OJ L 317/4, 15.12.2000, p. 3–353). This act has been amended.
- Agreement amending the Partnership Agreement between the members of the ACP group states and the EC – 2005 (OJ L 209/27, 11.8.2005, p. 26–26)
- Agreement amending for the second time the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Community and its Member States 04/11/2010 (OJ L 287/3, 4.11.2010, p. 3–49)

The Cotonou Agreement (along with both amending agreements, which were concluded in 2005 and 2010) provides a comprehensive framework for the EU's cooperation relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states. The cooperation is centred on the target of reducing and, in the longer-term, eradicating poverty. It must also contribute to the peace and security, political and economic cooperation, and democratic stability of these states. In this regard, partnership must, inter alia, support ACP states in their efforts to develop policies and reforms that improve access to basic social services, as well as economic and social development activities – taking special account of the needs and specific

⁽⁷⁷⁾ This document was already mentioned in the initial *Declaration of Competence* in the Annex II of the Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009, entitled *Community acts which refer to matters governed by the Convention* (OJ L 23, 27.1.2010, p. 35) and is still in force.

demands of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of society. In 2010, the Cotonou Agreement was adapted to new challenges such as climate change, food security, regional integration, State fragility and aid effectiveness.

- Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (Text with EAA relevance) (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, pp. 1–78). This act has been amended.

The Regulation establishes and lays down the objectives of the NDICI Instrument for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. The Regulation mainstreams the rights of persons with disabilities into all external action funding.

4.6. — REGARDING HEALTH

- Directive **2011/24/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare (OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, p. 45). This act has been amended.

The Directive sets out the conditions under which a patient may travel to another EU Member State to receive safe and high-quality medical care, and have the cost reimbursed by their own health insurance scheme – making some optional provisions for granting prior authorisation to recipients of cross-border healthcare with disabilities. It also encourages cooperation between national healthcare systems.

- Regulation (EU) **536/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use, repealing Directive 2001/20/EC (OJ L 158, 27.5.2014, p. 1). This act has been amended.

The Regulation ensures the safety of people participating in clinical trials and aims to simplify procedures authorising these trials, which are vital for developing new medicines and improving treatments that use existing medicines. Specific protective measures should be granted to people with disabilities.

- Regulation (EU) **2021/522** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health ('EU4Health Programme') for the period 2021-2027, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 (Text with EAA relevance) (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, pp. 1–29)

This regulation launches the EU's fourth health action programme, which provides that actions promoting access to health services and related facilities, and care for people with disabilities, are included in the list of actions eligible for funding under the Programme.

- Council Recommendation **2022/C 473/01** of 9 December 2022 on strengthening prevention through early detection: A new EU approach on cancer screening replacing Council Recommendation 2003/878/EC (OJ C 473, 13.12.2022, pp. 1–10)

The Recommendation call on Member States to ensure by appropriate means that persons with disabilities can access cancer screening services, and that clinical facilities for cancer screening are suitable for persons with disabilities

- Council Recommendation (**2024/0024**) on vaccine-preventable cancers

The Council Recommendation refers to addressing structural barriers and access issues in relation to human papillomavirus vaccination for disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities.

4.7. — IN THE FIELD OF AWARENESS RAISING

- Council Decision **2001/903/EC** of 3 December 2001 on the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003 (OJ L 335, 19.12.2001, p. 15)

The Decision declared that 2003 would be the European Year of People with Disabilities. The aim was to reinforce efforts regarding employment and integration and to raise awareness of disability.

- Decision **1098/2008/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010) (OJ L 298, 7.11.2008, p. 20)

The Decision declared that 2010 would be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. It provided that all the Year's activities must be accessible to persons with disabilities and that their specific needs should also be taken into account in ICT training.

- Decision **940/2011/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2011 on the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012) (OJ L 246, 23.9.2011, p. 5)

The Decision declared that 2012 would be the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. Its aim was to ensure that older people remain longer in the labour market, and remain healthy, active and autonomous for as long as possible. The Year's activities must be accessible to persons with disabilities.

- Decision (EU) **2020/2228** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 on a European Year of Rail (2021)

The Decision declared that 2021 would be the European Year of the Rail. One of its objectives was to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Organisations of persons with disabilities were named among the stakeholders with whom the Commission had to hold regular coordination meetings.