

## The EU Framework for the rights of People with Disabilities



### How does the European Union help people with disabilities?

- The European Union is a group of 28 countries in Europe.

The European Union makes laws and policies for the people who live in these countries.

The European Union is called the EU for short.



- One of the most important documents for people with disabilities is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- A convention is an agreement between different countries on rights that everyone has.

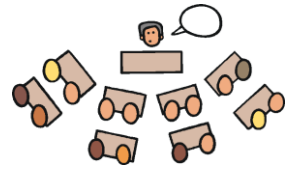
Countries that have agreed to the Convention must make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights as people without disabilities.

This means that people with disabilities can make their own choices and are treated as anyone else.

- The European Union thinks these rights are very important. The European Union tries to make the lives of people with disabilities better. The European Union made laws. The European Union checks to see that all 28 countries follow its laws.

## What is the "EU Framework"?

- The EU Framework means that five organisations work together.  
An organisation is a group of people working together.
- These organisations want that people in Europe can enjoy their rights.
- The EU Framework wants that the laws and policies make the lives of people with disabilities better.  
Laws are rules people must follow.  
Policies help people to follow the law.



## Who are the five members of the EU Framework?

The organisations in the EU Framework are:

### The European Parliament

- The European Parliament is one of the institutions of the European Union.  
It represents all the people in the EU.

Every five years people who live in the EU choose new members of the European Parliament.

- It holds a big meeting every month to discuss and decide about new laws.  
The European Commission suggests these new laws.  
The big meeting is in Strasbourg, in France.
- The European Parliament helps to protect the interests of all the people in the EU with laws that change the life of everyone.
- If you have a problem that has to do with the EU, you can contact the European Parliament to find a solution.

### The European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly is the European Ombudsman

- The European Ombudsman looks at how the institutions of the European Union work.
- The European Ombudsman helps people who live in the European Union.
- People with disabilities can call or write to the Ombudsman if they have a problem with the EU institutions.

You can also tell the Ombudsman if someone you know is treated wrongly by an EU institution.

### [The European Commission](#)

- The European Commission thinks about what would be best for the European Union. It can suggest new laws for the EU.
- It also looks if EU countries do what the laws and policies of the EU say. It wants to make the life of people with disabilities better.
- If you think that your country is not doing what these laws and policies say, you can contact the European Commission.

### [The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#)

- The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights is called FRA for short.

FRA helps to make sure everyone in the European Union can use their rights.

It looks at the rights of people in the EU.

It looks at the protection of rights

in the 28 countries of the EU.

It compares how countries protect these rights.

For example, FRA shows what is the same in these countries and what is different between them.

FRA works on the rights of people with disabilities.

It looks at how much people with disabilities can enjoy their rights.

## The European Disability Forum (EDF)

- The European Disability Forum is a big organisation that protects the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. The European Disability Forum is called EDF for short.
- It makes sure that the EU listens to the voice of people with disabilities and their organisations in any country in the EU.
- EDF makes sure that the EU is making the lives of people with disabilities better.
- If you think that your country is not protecting your rights, you can ask EDF to help you to complain in your country or in the EU.

## What does the EU Framework do?

- Each organisation in the EU Framework has a different job.
- They all want a better life for people with disabilities in Europe.
- Their work is divided into three parts called promotion, protection and monitoring.

### 1. Promotion

- The EU Framework makes sure people know about the rights of people with disabilities.
- The EU Framework also helps people to understand what these rights mean.
- Letting more people know about rights and what they can do is called promotion.



### 2. Protection

- The EU Framework helps protect people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities can ask for help if they feel they are treated differently and they cannot enjoy their rights.
- People with disabilities can complain when the government has done something wrong. They should ask for help.
- There are organisations that protect the rights of people with disabilities in the country where they live. They give advice about who to talk to.
- The European Ombudsman and the European Commission can help when people with disabilities have a problem about a law, policy or decision that the European Union made.

- If a country does not follow the EU laws properly, the European Commission can give it a warning and complain about that in the Court of Justice in Luxembourg.
- The Court's job is to make sure that EU laws are respected. It checks that laws are followed in the same way everywhere in the EU.
- Taking action when something is wrong is called protection.

### 3. Monitoring

- The EU Framework collects information about the laws and policies in each country.



The EU Framework uses this information to check and see if the laws are working properly for people with disabilities and making things better for them.

- Monitoring is when you check that everything is working as it should work.
- The European Ombudsman can ask other EU institutions questions to see if they are treating people with disabilities well.

## How does the EU Framework work?

- In the EU Framework different organisations work together.
- The members of the EU Framework meet at least two times a year.  
The Members discuss how people with disabilities can use their rights. They also plan what the EU Framework can do.
- In the EU Framework there is one person who helps the other members discuss and make decisions.  
This person is called the "Chairperson".
- The EU Framework has a person that helps the Chair and the members to prepare the meetings.  
This person is called the "secretariat".
- The EU Framework has a work programme.  
It says what the EU Framework will do.  
The work programme also says when things will be done.
- The EU Framework takes a decision when everyone agrees on what has been discussed.