EU Framework to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of UN CRPD: Review of work programme 2015 – 2016

In the implementation of this Work Programme, the Framework members worked together, within their respective mandates and areas of activity, on joint activities in line with the tasks of the Framework.

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| **ACTIVITY** | **RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION(S)** | **TIMEFRAME** | **UPDATES** |
| **PROMOTION** | | | |
| 1. A. Set up an **accessible Framework** **webpage** in EN, FR and DE which links to the relevant members’ pages and contains information about the Framework’s functioning, as well as its Work Programme and meeting minutes.   B. Prepare a paper in relation to the website, explaining its structure and proposed content, as well as the relevant duties of the framework members.  C. Preparation of key information in alternative formats (sign language and easy to read)  D. Translation of webpage or a factsheet to be made available online in all EU languages | EC will create, host and maintain a page on DG Employment home page (contributions of all) and highlight it at key events EC with contribution of all members  EC with contribution of all members  EC | Q1 2015  Q1 2015  Q1 2015  Q4 2015 | 1. A. The EU Framework webpages were launched on the European Commission website in July 2015, and an updated version including information about the 2015 review process has been [hosted by FRA](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/eu-crpd-framework) since June 2016.  C. Key information is available in easy to read and sign language. |
| 1. Act as a point for **information on monitoring the implementation of the UN CRPD** at the EU level (EU report, links to respective work programmes of framework members, process before UN CRPD Committee, work of EU institutions, national monitoring frameworks, relevant jurisprudence, opinions by EU institutions, civil society, etc.) | All (through own activities such as reporting, own website and communication), plus contribution to common webpage. | 2015-2016 | EU Framework website includes information on the 2015 review process, and members regularly present their work within the EU Framework.  EU Framework meets annually with representatives of national frameworks established under Article 33(2) to discuss areas of mutual interest.  **European Parliament**  The European Parliament Disability Intergroup disseminated information and raised awareness on CRPD within the institutions and towards civil society. The Intergroup was re-established in December 2014 and will continue its activity in the current legislative term.  On 28 – 29 November 2016 the European Parliament’s Pre-Accession Actions Unit, in cooperation with the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, organised the Inter-parliamentary conference “Non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in the EU enlargement region”, involving Members of the European Parliament and Members of Parliament of EU Enlargement Countries.  **European Ombudsman**  The [European Ombudsman’s 2015 Annual Report](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/activities/annualreports.faces;jsessionid=8ECFB137468B748368E75FC4B0907BFF) includes a section on the UN Disability Rights Convention, where the relevant work is presented. The Annual Report also includes a section on fundamental rights.  In **2015-2016 the European Ombudsman has intensified the process of making her website more accessible and user friendly.** [An easy to read explanation of the Ombudsman’s work](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/shortcuts/easy2read.faces) **and of how to lodge a complaint has been published on the website and is available in 24 languages.**  An assessment is currently being carried out by an external service provider aimed at enhancing the accessibility of the Ombudsman’s website for persons with disabilities.  **FRA**  In its [2016 Fundamental Rights Report](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-fundamental-rights-report-2016-2_en.pdf), FRA introduced a new regular chapter on developments in the implementation of the CRPD in the EU. This complements information on the EU Framework and national monitoring frameworks included in FRA Annual Reports since 2011.  FRA annually updates its [overview of Article 33 bodies](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/int-obligations/crpd) at the EU and national levels.  In May 2016, following a request from the European Parliament, FRA published a [legal opinion concerning requirements under Article 33(2) of the CRPD within the EU context.](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-opinion-03-2016-crpd.pdf)  **EDF**  EDF produced an [alternative report on the implementation of CRPD in the EU](http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_113844-8.pdf), an [alternative answers to the list of issues](http://cms.horus.be/site/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34335) and participated together with its members in the EU review process through, among others, the organisation of several briefing meetings. To promote the implementation of the concluding observations, EDF met with several [EU Commissioners](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34456) to request their action on the EU Concluding Observations, and organised and participated in hearings at the European Parliament on, amongst other, [the proposed European Accessibility Act](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34506). EDF also held a [civil society hearing](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34480) in September 2016 to gather the views of stakeholders on the progress made so far. EDF will submit to the CRPD Committee, by the end of 2016, an alternative response on the three urgent recommendations to the EU. |
| 1. Make available information material and contribute to developing a module for a training session to increase the **awareness** among the **staff of the EU institutions** about the UNCRPD | All | 2015-2016 | **European Ombudsman**  The European Ombudsman organised a training for its staff on "How to create accessible PDF documents". The training was given by a representative of AnySurfer.  The Ombudsman’s seconded national expert on the rights of persons with disabilities gave a lunchtime seminar for staff in both Brussels and Strasbourg on the UNCRPD.  **FRA**  FRA has organised several rounds of mandatory Disability Equality awareness training for all staff and interns.  During FRA’s chairing of the Network of EU Agencies, all EU Agencies signed a [joint statement pledging to strengthen fundamental rights protection in all areas of their work](http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/strengthen-fundamental-rights-protection-all-eu-agencies-sign-joint-statement), including with specific reference to the EU’s acceptance of the CRPD.  **EDF**  As part of its work programme, and in line with its cooperation with the European Commission Disability Unit, EDF assisted in the organisation of the [Work Forum in 2015, which focused on the CRPD review.](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=1038&furtherEvents=yes) |
| 1. **Present the work of the Framework** and its members in the area of disability to the **Interservice Group on Disability and COHOM** | All | 2015 (depending on invitation of Interservice Group on Disability and COHOM) | [EU Framework presented its work to COHOM in July 2016](http://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2016/eu-council-hears-eu-framework-un-disability-convention). |
| 1. **Provide input for the review** of the Commission's **Impact Assessment Guidelines** | Possible own-initiative inquiry of EO and input of EDF | 2015 | **EDF**  EDF called on the review of the impact assessment guidelines in its [alternative report to the CRPD Committee](http://www.icps.org.uk/images/pdf/2015%2003%2004%20EDF%20Alternative%20report%20final%20ACCESSIBLE.pdf) and, following the [recommendation from the Committee](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/un_concluding-observations-on-the-initial-report-of-the-european-union.pdf), during several high-level EU events, such as the 2016 Work Forum. |
| 1. **Disseminate information** on the **implementation of the UN CRPD** and the obligations deriving from it for the EU public administration to the EU agencies | FRA and EC | 2015-2016 | **FRA**  As part of its role chairing the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network in 2016, [FRA organised an information session on the CRPD and what it means for EU Agencies during a network meeting in February 2016](http://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2016/fra-hosts-awareness-raising-session-un-disability-convention-justice-and-home-affairs). |
| 1. Facilitate communication and cooperation, where relevant, with the **national monitoring frameworks**, i.e. through a meeting to exchange information and good practices | EC to host the meeting (back to back to the Work Forum) and all members to participate in the preparation and running of the meeting. EDF, as Framework Chair chairs the meeting. | Q2 2015 (to coincide with the Work Forum) | Annual meetings of the EU Framework and national frameworks to share information and exchange experiences have taken place annually since 2013, alongside the Work Forum.  European Ombudsman, FRA and EDF – in their individual capacity – participate as observers in meetings of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions’ (ENNHRI) CRPD Working Group, which brings together representatives of NHRIs that are members of national Article 33(2) frameworks. |
| **MONITORING** | | | |
| 1. Highlight issues to the **European Ombudsman** that can lead **to Own Initiative Inquiries** on structural problems in the implementation of the UN CRPD by EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies | All | 2015-2016 | In the context of the [European Ombudsman’s own-initiative inquiry into how the European Commission ensures that fundamental rights are complied with at all stages of the implementation of the EU cohesion policy in the Member States](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/press/release.faces/en/54420/html.bookmark) (including the use of funds for the institutionalisation of persons with disabilities), the Ombudsman conducted a stakeholder consultation in early 2015. [EDF replied to the consultation](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/correspondence.faces/en/59846/html.bookmark) along with a range of other bodies active in the area of EU cohesion policy. The European Ombudsman closed the inquiry in May 2015 with [eight proposals](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/decision.faces/en/59836/html.bookmark) to the Commission aimed at enhancing the protection of fundamental rights in the implementation of EU cohesion policy. The Commission [replied](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/correspondence.faces/en/61495/html.bookmark) in detail to the Ombudsman’s proposals setting out the improvements it had introduced in this area.  In January 2016 the European Ombudsman [wrote to Commission Vice- President Georgieva](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/correspondence.faces/en/63440/html.bookmark) on the integration of children with disabilities in the European Schools. EDF provided information on complaints of parents of children with disabilities denied access or support at European schools.  In February 2016 the European Ombudsman [wrote to the Commission President](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/correspondence.faces/en/63986/html.bookmark) on the accessibility of websites and online tools that the Commission manages.  In May 2016 the European Ombudsman [opened an own-initiative inquiry](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/case.faces/en/47803/html.bookmark) into how the treatment of persons with disabilities under the Commission’s Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme complies with the UN Convention. The inquiry is ongoing. |
| 1. Enhance the ongoing dialogue with other EU-level bodies and agencies to **collect data** in relevant areas ([Eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat), FRA, [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx) and [Eurofound](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/)) the Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED) to improve synergies | FRA and EC | 2015 (All year) | **FRA**  FRA (and the European Commission prior to its withdrawal from the EU Framework) was active in fostering cooperation between different bodies that carry out data collection activities relevant for disability and the monitoring of the CRPD:  - FRA coordinates its data collection activities concerning persons with disabilities with [Eurofound](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/) on an annual basis.  - participating in on-going discussions with the directors of social statistics regarding the harmonisation of data collection concerning persons with disabilities, particularly the global activity limitation indicator (GALI).  - FRA [develops human rights-based indicators](http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2011/fundamental-rights-indicators) (including on [political participation](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/indicators-right-political-participation-people-disabilities) and [independent living](http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2014/rights-persons-disabilities-right-independent-living/indicators)) in close cooperation with the EC and ANED; applying the indicators includes new analysis of existing European social survey data. |
| 1. Provide **input for the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020** that will be carried out by the EC for issues related to the implementation of the CRPD | FRA, EO, EP and EDF, upon request from the EC | 2015 | FRA and [EDF](http://www.google.at/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=6&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjBrY-PrqDQAhUIaxQKHbDMCCsQFggyMAU&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcms.horus.be%2Ffiles%2F99909%2FMediaArchive%2Flibrary%2FEDF%2520response%2520to%2520the%2520review%2520of%2520the%2520European%2520Disability%2520Strategy.doc&usg=AFQjCNFRISl5h_jZ1xckLAmYYvqQ91yyvg&sig2=7z25BjVmNyf4jzIe1VzbTA&bvm=bv.138169073,d.d24) – in their individual capacity – provided input into the [mid-term review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 in early 2016](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2421&furtherNews=yes). |
| 1. **Monitor the application of EU law** through implementation reports, human rights reports, oral questions, studies and implementation assessments | EP, EDF, FRA | 2015 | **European Parliament**  - [Study on Reasonable Accommodation and Sheltered Workshops for People with Disabilities: Costs and Returns - published in January 2015](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/536295/IPOL_STU(2015)536295_EN.pdf)  - [Study on Member States Policies for Children with Disabilities: Preparation of the missing 10 MSs country reports and Scotland](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/supporting-analyses.html?action=0&content=children%20with%20disabilities&wordSearchType=TITLE#supporting-analyses)  - [Implementation Assessment of the Employment Equality Directive](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/536346/EPRS_STU(2016)536346_EN.pdf)  - [Implementation Assessment on the EU Implementation of CRPD](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/536347/EPRS_IDA(2016)536347_EN.pdf)  [- Resolution on the implementation of the Employment Equality Directive](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P8-TA-2016-0360)  - [Implementation Assessment on The obligations of the EU public administration under CRPD](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/579325/EPRS_IDA(2016)579325_EN.pdf)  - [Resolution on the Implementation of CRPD with special regard to the Concluding Observations](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2016-0318&language=EN&ring=A8-2016-0203)  - The European Parliament CRPD Network reviews/screens documents (including legislative and non-legislative proposals, as well as opinions) and activities to raise awareness of possible disability-related issues and promote a coordinated approach whenever possible  **FRA**  Independently collects and analyses data on the implementation of the CRPD in the EU, including publishing reports concerning:  - [Overview of the situation of migrants and refugees with disabilities in nine EU Member States](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/overviews/focus-disability) (August 2016)  [- Developments in the implementation of the CRPD in the EU (part of Fundamental Rights Report June 2016)](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-frr-chapter_8-crpd_en.pdf)  - [Violence against children with disabilities](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2015-violence-against-children-with-disabilities_en.pdf) (December 2015) also available in [easy to read](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2015-easy_read_children_disability_report_0.pdf)  - [Legal and policy changes related to CRPD ratification in the EU (May 2015)](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2015-focus-05-2015-crpd_en.pdf)  - [Hate crime against persons with disabilities (March 2015)](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2015-focus-03-hate-crime-disability_en_0.pdf)  **EDF**  - EDF published first in its series of Human Rights reports in November 2016. The series aims to track progress over time in the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe. The 2016 issue marks the 10th anniversary of the CRPD and provides an overview of the commitment to the CRPD in Europe.  - EDF also produced its position on topics such as the [EU concluding observations](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page.asp?docid=34186&langue=EN), [the proposed European Accessibility Act](http://cms.horus.be/files/99909/MediaArchive/EDF%20Initial%20response%20European%20Accessibility%20Act%20Feb%202016%20-%20final.pdf), [Directive on Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies’ Websites](http://www.brucelawson.co.uk/docs/European-Disability-Forum-Position-Paper-Web-Accessibility-Legislation.html), [the proposed Social Pillar](http://cms.horus.be/files/99909/MediaArchive/EDF's%20initial%20response%20of%20the%20European%20Pillar%20of%20Social%20Rights%20-%20final.pdf), [EU passenger’s rights legislation](http://cms.horus.be/files/99909/MediaArchive/library/EDF%20reply%20to%20the%20consultion%20on%20Rail%20Passengers%20Rights%202016.pdf), [standardisation and audio-visual media services](http://cms.horus.be/files/99909/MediaArchive/ICT/Final_EDF_Position_AVMSD_Revision.pdf), labour mobility package, etc. |
| 1. Explore possibilities for an expert study on **the status of the UN CRPD in the EU legal order** | EDF | Q3 2015 |  |
| 1. Participate in the **review process of the EU by the UN Committee** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:  * Briefing meeting with the UN Committee in Geneva on the work of the EU Framework * Support the follow-up to the concluding observations | All | 2015 | All EU Framework members participated in the review process, including:  - April 2015: closed briefing with the CRPD Committee to discuss the list of issues  - May 2015: participation in European Parliament hearing on the CRPD  - August 2015: opening and closing statements during the constructive dialogue between the EU and the CRPD Committee; closed briefing with the CRPD Committee  Since the publication of the [concluding observations](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/un_concluding-observations-on-the-initial-report-of-the-european-union.pdf), all EU Framework members have participated in several events focused on follow up to the recommendations:  - Meetings of Economic and Social Committee ([September 2015](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-disabilities-convention); [October 2016](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.soc-opinions.38079))  - Exchange of views with European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (February 2016) |
| **PROTECTION** | | | |
| 1. Disseminate information on the **EO’s work** and **EP Petitions Committee** to investigate and report on **complaints** in the area of disabilities. Transfer concerns and complaints to the competent bodies. | All | 2015 - 2016 | **European Ombudsman**  The European Ombudsman has dealt with a range of disability-related complaints relating for example to the provision of sign language interpretation at events and the participation of persons with disabilities in recruitment competitions. In the context of a [case against the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), which concerned a candidate with a hearing disability](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/cases/decision.faces/en/66750/html.bookmark), the Ombudsman conducted a stakeholder consultation on the conditions for students with hearing impairments when they sit written tests in Member States.  **European Parliament**  The Committee on Petitions (PETI) processed petitions related to various themes, such as the use of sign languages, the Marrakesh Treaty, accessibility, inclusive education, and deinstitutionalisation.  On 15 October 2015, PETI organised a [hearing](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/events-hearings.html?id=20151015CHE00221) on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, from the perspective of petitions received. On this occasion, the [Study on the protection role of PETI in the context of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities](https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/493ded5c-c1b9-49c0-8dee-9b3ac9fc3b0f/pe536%20465.pdf) was presented.  On 3 February 2016, on PETI’s initiative, the EP adopted a [resolution](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2016-0037&language=EN&ring=B8-2016-0168) on the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, based on petitions received, notably Petition 924/2011 (2016/2542(RSP)).  On 22–23 September 2016, PETI carried out a [Fact-finding visit](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/events-missions.html?id=20160922CHE00221) to Slovakia to investigate the alleged misuse of structural funds as regards residential institutions for persons with disabilities. To this end, a study was commissioned: [European Structural and Investment Funds and People with Disabilities: Focus on the Situation in Slovakia](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/571371/IPOL_IDA(2016)571371_EN.pdf) (September 2016).  On 9 November 2016, the Policy Department organised for PETI a [Workshop on the rights of people with disabilities, as illustrated by petitions](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/events-workshops.html?id=20161025WKS00061), followed by a debate on specific disabilities-related petitions. On this occasion, three studies were presented:   * [The protection role of the Committee on Petitions in the context of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - 2016 Update](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/571384/IPOL_STU(2016)571384_EN.pdf) (November 2016) * [The European Structural and Investment Funds and People with Disabilities in the European Union](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/events-workshops.html?id=20161025WKS00061) (November 2016) * The Marrakesh Treaty (November 2016)   **EDF**  EDF advised and supported persons with disabilities when they are discriminated against and transferred complaints to the EU institutions, the European Parliament Committee on Petitions, national DPOs and equality bodies. EDF also, upon request of the European Ombudsman, collected information and data on cases of maladministration of the European Schools, and the use of the EU Structural Funds. |