



Annual Report 2024





In loving memory of Anna Drabarz, our dedicated Board member, legal scholar, and passionate advocate for persons with disabilities. Anna leaves behind a profound legacy of advancing equality, accessibility, and human rights in Poland and across Europe.

A distinguished researcher specialised in international and EU law, Anna focused on human rights and equality. Her impact extended beyond academia, as she played a pivotal role in promoting accessibility in law-making and enforcement.

She will be remembered as a relentless force for change, working to dismantle barriers and build a more just and inclusive society. She will be deeply missed.

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Remarks by the President

2024 was a year of contrasts. It was a year that showed what we can achieve when we remain united.

We had victories like the European Disability Card. Unprecedented events and important declarations, such as the European Regional Disability Summit and the G7's Solfagnano Charter. Advances in disability-inclusive obligations being added in laws such as the Directive to combat violence against women, and the Directive on the energy performance of buildings. We have made our voice heard with a record coverage by the media of our efforts on accessible, inclusive elections.

However, the global backlash on human rights risks all our achievements. We quickly noticed the shift in priorities after the European elections. Equality was relegated to the background, and disability did not even merit a mention in the new European Commission's political guidelines.

Our united and forceful response, together with other equality networks, has had some effect, but make no mistake: we cannot afford to falter. We need to keep being loud and united to ensure the achievements of 2024 live on.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our members, partners, and allies for their continued support. There is still much to be done, and we will continue to push for policies that ensure full participation, accessibility, and rights for all persons with disabilities.

Our message for 2024 and beyond is clear: there is no turning back on our rights, and progress will only happen if we remain united.

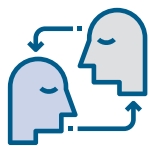
Yannis Vardakastanis

President of the European Disability Forum

Our Values

The European Disability Forum (EDF) defends the interests of over 100 million persons with disabilities living in Europe. We are an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities, created in 1996 to ensure that decisions at European level concerning persons with disabilities are taken with and by persons with disabilities.

EDF's values are built on the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):



Respect for inherent dignity



Equality of opportunity



Individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices



Accessibility



Equality between men and women



Non-discrimination



Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities, and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities



Full and effective participation and inclusion in society



Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity

Chapter 1:

Top highlights in 2024



1. A new EU law on the European Disability Card and Parking Card. The EU institutions approved a new law that meets most of our key demands for a strong European Disability Card. We also secured improvements to the European Parking Card.

2. Adoption of the Directive on Combating Violence Against Women. The EU adopted a new law on Combating Violence Against Women, with key provisions to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities. The Directive establishes specific obligations to address their rights and introduces aggravating circumstances for crimes committed against persons with disabilities.

3. Standing with Ukraine: Inclusive support and reconstruction. We continued to support persons with disabilities in Ukraine by delivering life-saving aid and championing inclusive, barrier-free reconstruction. We have reached over 70,000 people since the start of our programmes.

4. EU elections, new institutions, and strengthening disability advocacy. We advocated for the right to vote and candidacy for persons with disabilities, and for better accessibility to and of political information. We successfully advocated for the re-establishment of the Disability Intergroup in the European Parliament after the elections. The Intergroup counts over 60 Members of the European Parliament and remains a vital force in advancing disability rights.

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Chapter 2:

EDF in figures in 2024



Our policy impact

15 EU policies changed and adopted.

85 consultations to bring disability issues into policy initiatives.

29 high-level meetings with decision makers, including the President of the European Parliament, the Slovenian Prime Minister and Members of the European Parliament.

301 advocacy and technical meetings.

Our work with members

5 new members.

72 meetings with members.

28 training sessions to members.

9 Governing Body meetings:

1 Annual General Assembly in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

3 Board meetings in Brussels (Belgium), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Madrid (Spain).

5 Executive Committee meetings.

Joining forces through our events

65 events organised and co-organised.

Participants from **78** different countries.

2,400 participants.

Making our voice heard

148 times references in media (EU and national).

103,000 visits to our website.

Around **50,000** followers in total on all of our social media accounts



Chapter 3:

Campaigns highlights



Making the European Disability Card and Parking Card a reality



14 November 2024 marks a significant milestone: it is the day that the laws on the European Disability Card and European Parking Card (Directive (EU) 2841/2024 and Directive (EU) 2842/2024) were officially published. It brings us one step closer to making the Card a reality. EU countries now have until June 2028 to start accepting and issuing the Cards, providing proof of disability status across EU countries.

What will be the main features of the Cards?

- 1. Temporary travel:** the Disability Card will simplify proving disability status during short stays in other EU countries, offering access to special conditions and discounts in services like culture, leisure, sports, transport, and shopping.
- 2. Same special conditions and “preferential treatments”:** the Card will allow persons with disabilities to access the same discounts, preferential access and other support as nationals with disabilities.
- 3. Free of charge:** the Card will be issued and renewed free of charge.
- 4. Distinct Cards:** the EU Parking Card and the European Disability Card will remain two separate Cards.

Protecting women's rights: Ending forced sterilisation in the EU



We have made significant strides in advocating for the rights of women and girls with disabilities. We have remained firm in our push for a strong EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and are providing support to our members to ensure the new legal obligations are implemented by countries. We have continued to lead our European campaign to end forced sterilisation.

Our major successes included:

1. Improvements to the **Directive on Combating Violence Against Women**: The Directive includes key protections for women with disabilities, aligned with the CRPD. It requires EU countries to recognise disability as an aggravating circumstance in offences, ensure law enforcement and prosecutors apply disability-sensitive approaches, and guarantee that helplines are accessible, among many other obligations.

- 2. Malta became the 10th EU country to criminalise forced sterilisation**, which came as a result of our relentless campaign to end this inhumane practice and the direct consultation by the Maltese government of the Vice Chair of EDF Women's Committee on this law reform. We are now calling on the remaining EU Member States to follow suit and take immediate action to criminalise it.

- 3. We launched our third manifesto on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities**, making a decisive call to the EU, national governments, and organisations to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. The manifesto demands increased political participation, leadership, and empowerment, and specifically demands the criminalisation of forced sterilisation and forced abortion.

These successes reflect our ongoing advocacy for a more inclusive environment for women and girls with disabilities across Europe.



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Supporting Ukrainians with disabilities and their families



We and our partners have supported Ukraine's disability organisations, providing life-saving aid and advocating for inclusive policies since Russia's full-scale invasion. We are also advocating for inclusive reconstruction efforts, with barrier-free infrastructure, deinstitutionalisation with community support, disability-inclusive aid, and policies led by persons with disabilities.

Two major initiatives have been at the core of our Ukraine Response:

The 'Empower Ukraine' and 'Ukraine war: Disability-inclusive response and recovery': led disability-inclusive response and recovery supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and CBM International.

The initiatives join 15 partner organisations from 8 countries, including 2 organisations of persons with disabilities in Ukraine: The National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine and the League of the Strong.

As we approach the third year of this devastating war this is our collective impact :

+ 70,000
people have been supported through direct services, and at least 36,000 are persons with disabilities.

+ 10,500
people benefited from inclusive mental healthcare, including psychological first aid, disability-inclusive mental health training and one-on-one counseling.

+ 8,000 persons with disabilities and their families received transport services, usually to attend health care appointments.

We also support healthcare and humanitarian professionals by participating in capacity-building training programs on disability inclusion.

+ 11,500
people have received cash assistance and assistive devices.

We provided bicycles to social workers in rural Ukraine to help them transport essential supplies like hygiene products, food, and medicine across vast distances, a much-needed and well-received solution.

Advocating for accessible EU elections across all member states



Voters across the European Union elected 705 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) between 6-9 June 2024. We actively campaigned for an inclusive future for persons with disabilities in the EU involving members and allies.

4. We developed **two accessibility checklists** to help campaign staff, politicians, candidates, and public officials to assess their campaign communications and events, understand what is missing, and find out where to go from there.
5. We released a **report co-authored by the Funka Foundation with the title “Access Denied: The (in)accessibility of European Political Party websites”**. The report found appalling results on the websites of the 7 main European political parties.
6. We produced the **pledge “Building an inclusive future for persons with disabilities”** asking candidates to commit to re-establish the European Parliament’s Disability Intergroup and to advocate for an ambitious revision of the European Union’s Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The pledge was signed by 200 candidates.

7. We partnered with the European Parliament and joined the **together.eu platform** to raise awareness about the importance of the elections.
8. We partnered with Meta to host an event on inclusive, accessible elections that joined Members of the European Parliament and disability advocates.

Disability Intergroup re-establishment



Thanks to EDF's strong leadership, tireless advocacy, and the power of our movement, the Disability Intergroup in the European Parliament was successfully re-established in 2024. This renewed Intergroup serves as a vital platform to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities remain high on the EU's political agenda.

The Intergroup now includes :

**Over 60 Members
of the European
Parliament**

**From across the
political spectrum**

**Representing all
EU countries and
key Parliamentary
committees**

This means:

1. **Stronger political support:** we secured backing for the Intergroup from all major political groups, reinforcing its legitimacy and influence.
2. **Mainstreaming disability rights:** the Intergroup has already begun working to ensure disability is considered in discussions around digitalisation, green transition, and fundamental rights.
3. **Influencing leadership:** advocacy also played a key role in the title change of Commissioner Hadja Lahbib, ensuring her mandate explicitly includes equality, a clear recognition of our push for visibility and accountability.





Chapter 4:

Success by work area



Emerging issues:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We would like to express our gratitude to the European AI & Society Fund for making all of this possible, enabling us to achieve these significant successes this year:

Advocating for an inclusive EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act):

- The AI Act was formally adopted, introducing mandatory accessibility requirements for high-risk AI, thanks to the efforts of EDF and partners.
- To support its implementation nationally, we released a guide and hosted a successful webinar for its presentation.

Sub-granting impact: 8 approved projects, 5 conferences/webinars, and new research.

Three grantees conducted impactful research, driving forward the conversation on disability and AI:

- The **European Network of Independent Living (ENIL)** focused on the intersection of AI and independent living.
- Our **French member CFHE** produced a comprehensive booklet on AI and disability.
- Our **Spanish member CERMI and the Swedish Disability Rights Federation** explored how AI can be used for advocacy work.

Sharing developments on Artificial Intelligence.

We published three editions of the AI & Disability Update newsletter in 2024. Over the year, our subscriber base grew by 144 per cent—from 257 in January 2024 to 540 in January 2025—reflecting a growing interest in the intersection of disability and artificial intelligence.

Climate Action

Driving disability inclusion in Global Climate Action: COP 29 and advocacy for a Just Transition:

- We coordinated the **Global Disability Caucus** and played an active role in the UN Climate Conference, COP 29, improving disability inclusion in global climate discussions.
- Our efforts resulted in the **first-ever review of disability inclusion in European climate policy**.

Adoption of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Recast) and accessibility obligations:

- Thanks to our team's efforts, the adoption of the recast of the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive** now includes obligations for Member States to address the accessibility of buildings: the first piece of legislation in the EU to do so.
- **We also continued supporting the European Alliance for a Just Transition**, advocating for a socially fair, sustainable EU.

Disaster-Risk Reduction

Advocating for Inclusive Disaster Preparedness at the EU Civil Protection Forum:

- We advocated for inclusive disaster preparedness during the annual **EU Civil Protection Forum**, emphasising the need for accessible emergency responses.
- Promoting disability inclusion at the **European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)** in Montenegro: We, along with three of our members, **Iederin, the Lithuanian Disability Forum (LDF) and ONCE Foundation** participated in the regional platform in Montenegro, where we emphasised the crucial role of disability inclusion in disaster preparedness through a side event and panel discussions.

The Right to Health: ensuring access and equality

Advocacy for autonomy and the fight against coercion in mental healthcare:

- We successfully influenced the **Council of Europe's draft Recommendation on respect for autonomy in mental healthcare**, ensuring it includes clear references to human rights and good practices, and aims to eliminate coercion.

Advocacy success – Disability-Inclusive EU Council Recommendation on Vaccine-Preventable Cancers:

- Our advocacy led to a disability-inclusive **EU Council recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers**, highlighting vaccination access issues and urging Member States to address structural barriers for persons with disabilities.

Our work with the World Health Organisation led to key wins:

- We helped shape the new WHO Non-State Actor strategy to better include organisations of persons with disabilities. We spoke at its high-level launch, highlighting our impact and pushing for stronger inclusion.
- We contributed to accessibility improvements in WHO's 2024 COVID-19 campaign.

Legal capacity

Publication and widespread dissemination of EDF's Human Rights Report on Legal Capacity.

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Areas of Work (in Alphabetical Order)

Accessibility

Major win for Rail Accessibility – European Commission backs our demands:

One of our key achievements in 2024 was the European Commission's official request for the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) to revise the TSI-PRM regulation on rail accessibility. The revision includes EDF's core demands, such as ensuring level boarding and addressing accessibility gaps in both trains and stations.

We will actively contribute to the revision process as part of ERA's working bodies and has already begun developing a detailed position paper with input from members and experts across Europe.

Driving change in transport – EDF's strong voice for Passenger Rights:

In 2024, EDF was a key player in shaping fair and accessible EU passenger rights legislation. We analysed the 2023 proposals, suggested amendments, and carried out high-level advocacy, including:

- 10 meetings with EU institutions and national representatives;
- 1 public hearing at the European Parliament's Transport Committee (TRAN Committee);
- 5 official letters sent by EDF members to national Transport Ministers;
- Over 100 targeted emails to EU decision-makers.

Our advocacy led to new obligations for transport services, including carriers and National Enforcement Bodies: carriers must adopt Service Quality Standards and report disability-related complaints, while National Enforcement Bodies will assess compliance through audits and inspections.

We welcome the proposal, which enhances passenger rights during disruptions like delays, replicating existing provisions across transport modes, including the right to transport, free assistance, accessible information, and care during delays, with a focus on persons with disabilities.

Human Rights and Non-Discrimination

Successful collaboration and advocacy for the CRPD Committee's Review:

- We submitted our Alternative Report for the CRPD Committee's second review of the EU in collaboration with our members;
- We provided support to five EDF members whose countries (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, and Ukraine) were evaluated by the CRPD Committee in 2024;
- We contributed key European issues to the evaluation process through information notes submitted to CRPD Committee experts.

Policy recommendations on intersectionality between disability and LGBTI Rights in collaboration with ILGA Europe:

- We published policy recommendations on the intersection of disability and LGBTI rights in collaboration with ILGA Europe, drawing on data from the Fundamental Rights Agency's LGBTI survey.

International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action

Adopting the Solfagnano Charter:

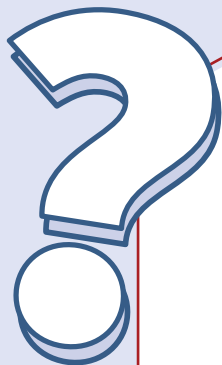
We shaped the Solfagnano Charter, working with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and our members to ensure our perspectives were reflected.

Our input included:

- **Recognition of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs):** while early drafts omitted OPDs entirely, we successfully advocated for explicit commitments to their meaningful involvement in policy design, implementation, and monitoring.
- **Inclusive humanitarian action:** we pushed for the inclusion of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines, leading to a G7 commitment to base their emergency preparedness and humanitarian efforts on these standards.
- **Commitment to accessibility and independent living:** together with our members, we advocated for strong language affirming the right of persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live. The Charter now includes commitments to remove barriers, implement accessibility measures, and ensure reasonable accommodation to support community living.
- **Acknowledgment of intersecting discrimination:** the Charter now recognises that persons with disabilities, especially women, girls, and children with disabilities, face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Did you know ...?

About the Solfagnano Charter



The Solfagnano Charter is a political declaration adopted on 16 October 2024 by G7 members. The Solfagnano Charter sets key G7 commitments to promote inclusive education, equal employment, accessible public spaces and transport, digital inclusion, and full participation of persons with disabilities. It also urges stronger international cooperation and alignment with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Strengthening EU Delegation Partnerships:

We facilitated engagement between EU Delegations and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Nepal and Georgia, reinforcing collaboration on disability rights.

European Regional Disability Summit 2024:

We co-hosted the European Regional Disability Summit, which convened over 800 participants to discuss inclusive international cooperation and humanitarian action.

Ukraine Facility:

We successfully advocated for OPDs' participation and accessibility in Ukraine's reconstruction efforts.

European Humanitarian Forum:

At the European Humanitarian Forum, we were part of a high-level panel on localisation of aid, emphasising the role of local organisations of persons with disabilities. We also spoke at a side event on humanitarian funding, and provided critical feedback on the lack of accessibility of the forum itself.

Social Policy

Increased Recognition of Disability in the European Semester Spring Package:

The European Semester Spring Package saw a notable increase in references to disability, with disability-related issues highlighted in the country reports of all 27 EU Member States. This marks a significant step toward greater inclusion and recognition of disability rights across Europe.

Adoption of EDF position on independent living and inclusion in the community:

We have clearly defined our position on this highly divisive topic within the disability community. After years of consultations with our members, we have, for the first time, reached a shared agreement to:

- **Establish clear definitions** of independent living, de-institutionalisation, community-based services, and what constitutes an institution;
- **Share concrete recommendations to decision-makers** on funding, governance, data collection, human rights monitoring, and effective policy implementation;
- **Outline key steps needed to support persons with disabilities** in transitioning from segregated institutional settings to independent living within the community.

Launch of European Commission's Guidance on Independent Living and inclusion for persons with disabilities:

Our position, delineated in the position paper on independent **living and inclusion in the community** is clearly reflected in the Commission's guidance including:

- Limiting the use of EU funds for institutions that segregate persons with disabilities and violate their fundamental rights;
- Supporting the transition to independent living by phasing out institutional infrastructure and services;
- Establishing independent quality control systems, including accessible complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities, their families, or representatives.

Women and girls with disabilities

Strong visibility at the Second Gender Equality Forum:

Our photo exhibition on the experiences of women with disabilities was visited by many participants, including the newly appointed Commissioner Hadja Lahbib. During her visit, we raised key priorities for women and girls with disabilities across Europe.

Strengthening disability-inclusive gender advocacy:

We published a practical guide to support organisations of persons with disabilities in engaging with GREVIO, the Council of Europe's expert group on ending violence against women.

Youth with disabilities

Amplifying young participation in key forums:

Members of the EDF Youth Committee played a leading role as speakers and moderators at major events such as the Zero Project Conference, the European Day of Persons with Disabilities, and the European Regional Disability Summit, bringing the perspectives of young persons with disabilities to the forefront of European and global discussions.

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Chapter 5:

Events



The European Regional Disability Summit



For the first time, European leaders gathered for the High-Level European Regional Disability Summit on International Cooperation—a landmark moment for disability rights and global collaboration.

We co-organised the event with the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), and the German Disability Alliance, together with key international partners.

With over 800 participants, this unprecedented event brought together decision-makers, civil society, and international agencies to reinforce the importance of disability-inclusive international cooperation and reaffirm commitments to the rights of persons with disabilities globally.

The European Accessibility Summit



The European Accessibility Summit, co-hosted with **Microsoft**, is EDF's flagship event to raise awareness and drive action on accessibility across sectors.

In 2024, the Summit focused on the role of accessibility in the EU elections, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, and showcased innovative technology demos.

Around 300 participants joined the discussions, featuring high-level speakers including the Belgian Minister of Pensions and Social Integration, senior representatives from Microsoft, the European Commission, and organisations of persons with disabilities.

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities



We co-organise the European Day of Persons with Disabilities Conference (EDPD), together with the **European Commission**, to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

This two-day event brought together more than 600 participants, policymakers, high-level experts and disability advocates, covering employment, independent living, and transport, with a special focus on accessibility in cities, marking the 15th anniversary of the Access City Award.

Inclusive, accessible elections: From pre-campaigning to the day after



This event focused on the barriers persons with disabilities face throughout the electoral process—as voters, candidates, and elected officials. Held in Brussels, the event brought together 45 participants for an engaging and interactive discussion.

Attendees had the opportunity to exchange directly with key stakeholders, including Members of the European Parliament, representatives from EU institutions, and leaders from the disability movement. Together, they explored strategies to make elections across Europe more inclusive and accessible to all.

The event was kindly supported by **Meta**.

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Chapter 6:

Who we are.

Meet our team



Our Organisation: Governing Bodies and Staff

Executive Committee Members



Yannis Vardakastanis
EDF President
National
Confederation of
Disabled People of
Greece (NCDP)



Gunta Anca
EDF Vice-President
Latvian Umbrella
Body for Disability
Organisations
(SUSTENTO)



John Patrick Clarke
EDF Vice-President
European Down
Syndrome
Association
(EDSA)



Ana Peláez Narváez
EDF Secretary General
Spanish Committee
of Representatives
of Persons with
Disabilities
(CERMI)



Maureen Piggot
EDF Treasurer
Inclusion Europe
(IE)



Vera Bonvalot
Brain Injured
People and
Families –
European
Confederation
(BIF-EC)



Nadia Hadad
European Network
on Independent
Living (ENIL)



**Humberto
Insolera**
European Union of
the Deaf (EUD)



Klaus Lachwitz
German Disability
Council (DBR)



**Pirkko
Mahlamäki**
Finnish Disability
Forum (FDF)



Thorkild Olesen
Disabled People's
Organisations
Denmark (DPOD)

Board Members



Marcel Bobeldijk
European
Federation of
Hard of Hearing
(EFHOH)



**Luisa Bosisio
Fazzi**
Italian Disability
Forum (FID)



**Pietro
Cirrincione**
Autism-Europe (AE)



John Dolan
Disability
Federation of
Ireland (DFI)



Anna Drabarz
Polish Disability
Forum (PFON)



Kristijan Grdjan
Mental Health
Europe (MHE)



Giampiero Griffo
Disabled Peoples'
International
Europe (DPI
Europe)



Javier Güemes
European
Association of
Service Providers
for Persons
with Disabilities
(EASPD)



Pierre Gyselinck
Action Européenne
des Handicapés
(AEH)



**Sari Hirvonen-
Skarbö**
European
Association of
Cochlear Implant
Users (EURO-CIU)



Dovilė Juodkaitė
Lithuanian
Disability Forum
(LNF)



Cato Lie
International
Federation for
Spina Bifida and
Hydrocephalus (IF)



Marica Mirić
Croatian Union
of Associations
of Persons with
Disabilities (SOIH)



Albert Prévós
French Council of
Disabled People for
European and
International
Affairs (CFHE)



Borut Sever
Slovenian National
Disability Council
(NSIOS)



**Thurídur
Sigurdardóttir**
Organisation of
Disabled in Iceland
(ÖBÍ)



Sorin Țața
Romanian National
Disability Council
(CNDR)



Bart Verdickt
Belgian Disability
Forum (BDF)



**Christina
Wurzinger**
Austrian Disability
Council

Our Secretariat



Catherine Naughton
Executive Director



Alejandro Moledo
Deputy Director
and Head of Policy

Policy team



Marie Denninghaus
Senior Policy
Coordinator



Haydn Hammersley
Social Policy
Coordinator



Marine Uldry
Human Rights
Policy Coordinator



Daniel Casas
Accessibility
Officer



Markaya Henderson
Health Policy and
Project Officer



Roberta Lulli
Project Officer



Kave Noori
Artificial
Intelligence Policy
Officer



**Samaneh
Shabani**
Women's Rights
Officer (left in
2024)



Filippo Sinicato
Policy and Project
Officer (left in
2024)

International Cooperation team



Marion Steff
International
Cooperation
Manager



**An-Sofie
Leenknecht**
Human Rights
Coordinator



Gordon Rattray
Programme
Coordinator



Phillipa Tucker
Central and Eastern
Europe Coordinator



Erika Hudson
International
Cooperation Policy
Officer



Giulia Traversi
Humanitarian
Policy Officer



**Mariya
Yasenovska**
Human Rights
Officer

Operations team



Muriel Da Via
Human Resources
and Office Manager



Loredana Dicsi
Membership,
Internal
Communication
and Youth
Coordinator



Raquel Riaza
Events and
Administration
Coordinator



**Magdalena
Verseckas**
Funding and Grants
Coordinator



Liisa Halonen
Executive Secretary
(joined in 2024)



**Kateryna
Ostashkova**
Administration and
Reporting Officer



**Nicoleta
Ungureanu**
Administration and
Reporting Officer

Communications team



André Felix
Communications
Manager



Natalia Suárez
Senior
Communications
Officer



Ness James
Senior
Communications
Officer



Ciara Kristensen
Communications
and Campaigns
Officer (left in
2024)

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Chapter 7:

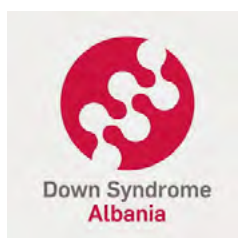
Our members

In 2024, EDF proudly counted **113 members** across four membership categories: Full Members, Ordinary Members, Associate Members, and Observers.



New members

In 2024 we welcomed **5** new members!



Down Syndrome Albania Foundation

Down Syndrome Albania is a national association led by parents of children and adults with Down Syndrome, as well as individuals with Down Syndrome themselves. It works to promote inclusion, advocate for rights, and improve the lives of people with Down Syndrome in Albania.



The Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities of the Republic of Moldova - European Abilities Without Limits

The Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities of Moldova – “European Abilities Without Limits” (AEFL Moldova) promotes the social, economic, and political inclusion of women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, empowering them to access opportunities and take part in decision-making.



Newcomers with Disabilities in Sweden

Newcomers with Disabilities in Sweden is a refugee-led organisation by and for persons with disabilities. It supports refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities in navigating the asylum process and integrating into Swedish society.



European Spinal Cord Injury Federation (ESCIF)

The European Spinal Cord Injury Federation (ESCIF) is the umbrella organisation representing national self-help groups for people with spinal cord injuries across Europe. ESCIF works to protect their rights, promote their interests, and improve quality of life through advocacy, collaboration, and knowledge sharing.



Union of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

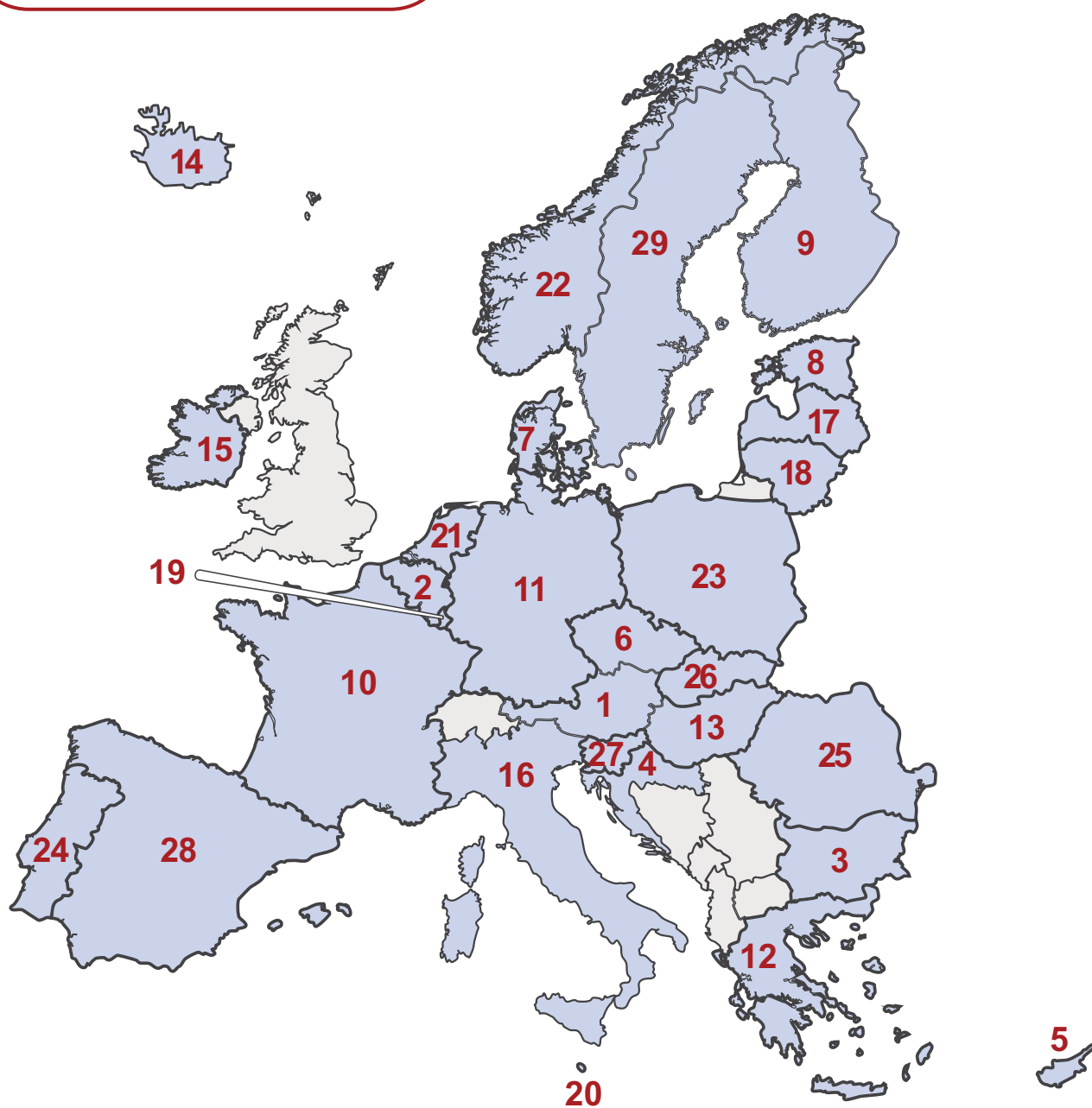
The Union of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the national umbrella organisation representing persons with disabilities. It works to advance and protect their rights, promoting inclusion and equal opportunities across the country.



Full members

In 2024, we had **53** full members.

29 national councils of persons with disabilities.



1. Austria – Austrian Disability Forum
2. Belgium – Belgian Disability Forum
3. Bulgaria – National Council of People with Disabilities in Bulgaria
4. Croatia – Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities
5. Cyprus – Cyprus Confederation of Organisations of the Disabled
6. Czech Republic – Czech National Disability Council
7. Denmark – Disabled People’s Organisations Denmark
8. Estonia – Estonian Chamber of Disabled People
9. Finland – Finnish Disability Forum
10. France – French Council of Disabled People for European and International Affairs
11. Germany – German Disability Council
12. Greece – National Federation of Disabled People of Greece
13. Hungary – Hungarian National Council of Federations of People with Disabilities
14. Iceland – Icelandic Disability Alliance
15. Ireland – Disability Federation of Ireland
16. Italy – Italian Disability Forum
17. Latvia – Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations
18. Lithuania – Lithuanian Disability Forum
19. Luxembourg – National Disability Council of Luxembourg
20. Malta – Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability
21. Netherlands – Dutch Network for People with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses
22. Norway – Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled People
23. Poland – Polish Disability Forum
24. Portugal – National Confederation of Organisations of Disabled People in Portugal
25. Romania – Romanian National Disability Forum
26. Slovakia – Slovak Disability Council
27. Slovenia – Slovenian National Disability Council
28. Spain – Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities
29. Sweden – Swedish Disability Rights Federation

24 European non-profit organisations representing persons with disabilities.



- 1.** Autism-Europe (AE)
- 2.** Brain Injured People and Families – European Confederation (BIF-EC)
- 3.** Cerebral Palsy – European Communities Association (CP-ECA)
- 4.** DEBRA International
- 5.** Disabled Peoples' International Europe (DPI Europe)
- 6.** Action Européenne des Handicapés (AEH)
- 7.** European Alliance of Neuromuscular Disorders Associations (EAMDA)
- 8.** European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU)
- 9.** European Blind Union (EBU)
- 10.** European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)
- 11.** European Deafblind Union (EDbU)
- 12.** European Down Syndrome Association (EDSA)
- 13.** European Dyslexia Association (EDA)
- 14.** European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH)
- 15.** European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA)
- 16.** European Network of (Ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP)
- 17.** European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)
- 18.** European Polio Union (EPU)
- 19.** European Union of the Deaf (EUD)
- 20.** Inclusion Europe
- 21.** International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF)
- 22.** International Federation of Persons with Physical Disability (FIMITIC)
- 23.** Rare Diseases Europe (EURORDIS)
- 24.** Retina International

Ordinary members

In 2024, we had **12**
ordinary members.

- 25.** Alzheimer Europe
- 26.** Association for Research and Training on Integration in Europe (ARFIE)
- 27.** Association for Supported Employment Europe (ASEE)
- 28.** Association Internationale Aphasie (AIA)
- 29.** Design for All Europe (EIDD)
- 30.** European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- 31.** European Deafblind Network (EDbN)
- 32.** European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF)
- 33.** European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP)
- 34.** European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)
- 35.** Mental Health Europe (MHE)
- 36.** Social Firms Europe (SFE CEFEC)

Associate members

Associate members are non-profit organisations or companies that are committed to promoting EDF's aims.

In 2024, EDF had **43** associate members.

1. Ålands handikappförbund – The organisation of Persons with Disabilities in Åland
2. Aprobata Foundation
3. Association Alliance of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities
4. Association of Teacher Special Educational Lists
5. Associazione Nazionale Mutilati ed Invalidi Civili (ANMIC)
6. CBM Global Disability Inclusion
7. CBM Italia
8. Centre for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CDPD) Moldova
9. Coalition for Independent Living (CIL)
10. Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)
11. Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE)
12. Disability Rights Agenda
13. Disabled Youth Norway
14. Down Syndrome Albania Foundation
15. DysNet
16. Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei Sordi (ENS)
17. European Deaf Students Union (EDSU)
18. Euro Psy Rehabilitation (EPR)
19. European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation (FAEY)
20. European Institute for Research, Training and Vocational Guidance (I.E.R.F.O.P. Onlus)
21. European Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Alliance (EMEA)
22. European Ostomy Association (EOA)
23. European Spinal Cord Injury Federation (ESCIF)
24. European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY)
25. Faroese Disability Organisations (MEGD)

26. Gelijke Rechten voor Iedere Persoon met een handicap (GRIP)
27. Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs (HBSO)
28. International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP Europe)
29. International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP)
30. Kosovo Disability Forum (KDF)
31. League of the Strong
32. Light for the World
33. Newcomers with Disabilities in Sweden
34. ONCE Foundation
35. Saint Lazarus Foundation
36. San Marino Paralympic Committee
37. Sightsavers
38. SO Europe Eurasia Foundation (Special Olympics)
39. Swiss national organisation of persons with disabilities (AGILE)
40. The Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities of the Republic of Moldova
41. Union of Disabled People in Bulgaria (UDPB)
42. Union of Disabled People Organizations (UDPO) of the Republic of Azerbaijan
43. Vittime Italiane Talidomide (VITA)
44. Youth with Disabilities Norway



Observer members

Our observer members are national organisations of persons with disabilities from countries in Europe outside the EU.

In 2024, EDF's observer members were:

1. Confederation of the Disabled of Turkey (TDC)
2. National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities of Ukraine (NAPD)
3. National Council of Disability Organisations of North Macedonia (NSIOM)
4. National organisation of persons with disabilities of Serbia (NOOIS)
5. Union of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Committees and expert groups

Human Rights and Non-Discrimination Committee



This committee ensures that national and European leaders are closely involved in –and fully informed about– our work on human rights, equality and non-discrimination, and especially on the CRPD.

Social Policy and Inclusion Committee



This committee contributes to EDF's work on social and employment policy. It supports members by providing expertise on social rights, including the right to work and employment, social protection, and full inclusion in society.

Women's Committee



This committee mainstreams gender in all EDF policies and documents. It raises awareness of the situation of women and girls with disabilities and works towards the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in society.

Youth Committee

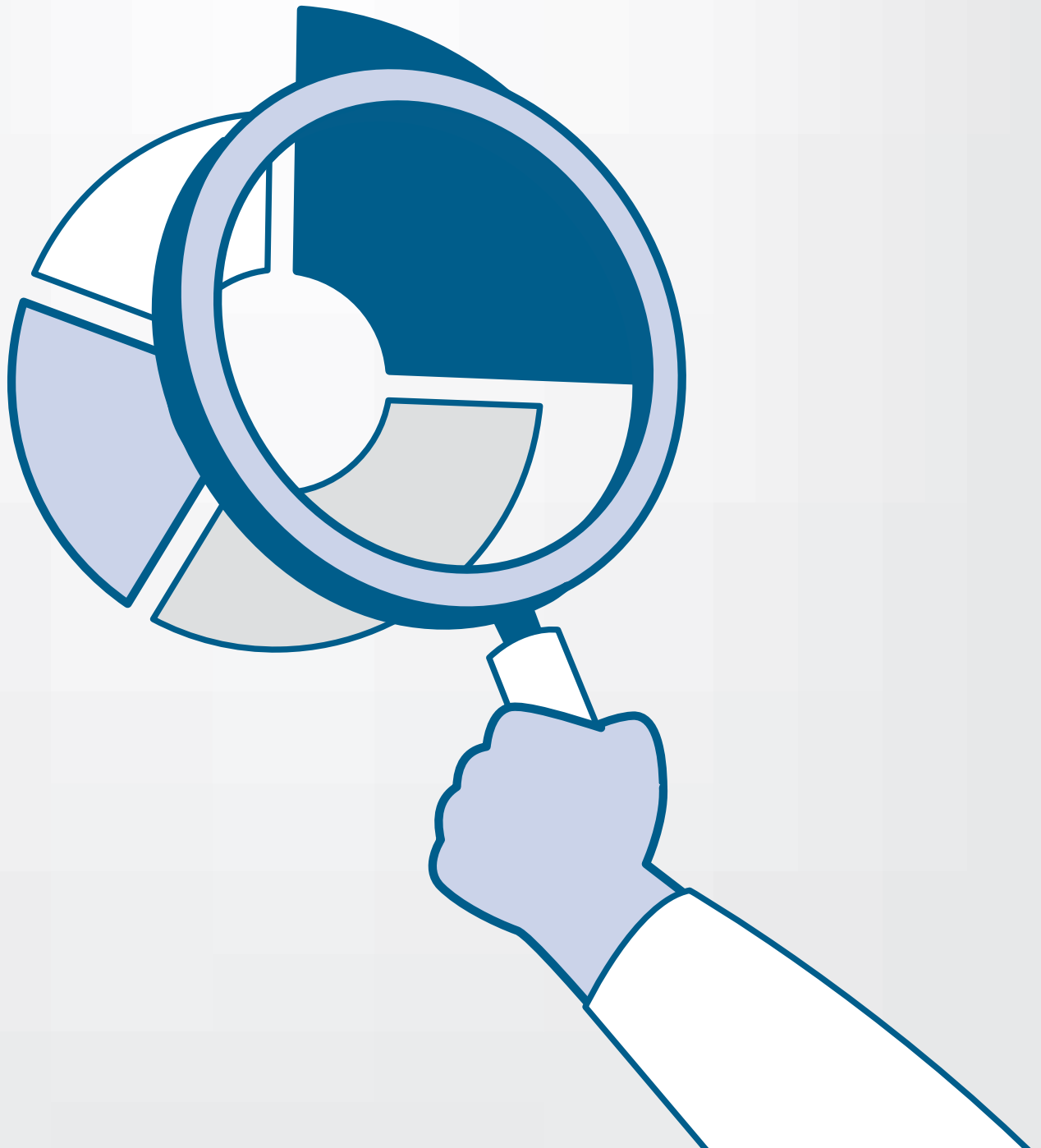


The role of this committee is to ensure that EDF's work takes into account the perspective of young people with disabilities, and also to represent young people with disabilities in both EDF and external events.

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Chapter 8:

Transparency



Our funders

We deeply appreciate all contributions received. We are relying on grants, donations (from individuals, corporations and foundations), as well as membership fees to fulfil our mission effectively.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the financial support provided by:

1. European Commission
2. CBM International
3. Wellspring Foundation
4. Chanel Fondation
5. European AI & Society Fund
6. European Climate Foundation
7. Global Green Grants
8. ONCE Foundation
9. City Foundation
10. Google.org
11. Toyota
12. Apple
13. IKEA
14. Oracle
15. Microsoft
16. Amazon
17. Meta
18. Gregg Vanderheiden

Our partners and close collaborators

None of our achievements in 2024 would have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners and close collaborators. Your commitment and expertise have been essential in driving forward our shared mission for equality, inclusion, and the rights of persons with disabilities across Europe.

Together, we have shown that meaningful change happens through collaboration, trust, and a common vision. Thank you for standing with us!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe 2. Coordination Centre for Family Upbringing and Child Care Development 3. Erasmus+ Coalition 4. European Youth Forum (YFJ) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Inclusive Mobility Alliance (IMA) 6. International Disability Alliance (IDA) 7. International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) 8. WHO Europe 9. Zero Project |
|---|---|

Financial report 2024

Income	€ 3,876,079.59
European Commission Operating Grant	€1,598,182.20
Other projects	€1,720,675.17
Member fees	€198,142.00
Other EC co-financing	€359,080.22
Expenditure	€ 4,063,761.89
Operating grant	€1,957,262.42
1. Staff cost	€1,133,087.71
2. Travel and subsistence	€290,019.10
3. Services	€232,047.37
4. Administrative costs	€302,108.24
Other projects and activities	€2,106,499.47

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