



Autism-Europe improves
the quality of life of autistic people

E-newsletter – December 2021



This information is
easy to read!



Editorial



Welcome to
Autism-Europe's e-newsletter.



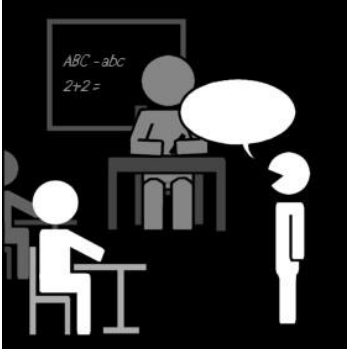
This newsletter is
in **easy-to-read** language.

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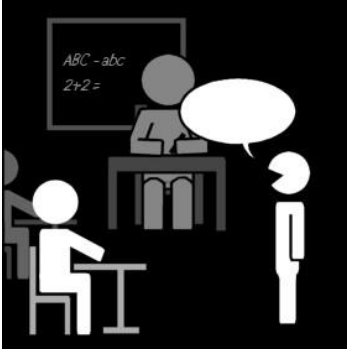
In this newsletter you will find
3 articles.



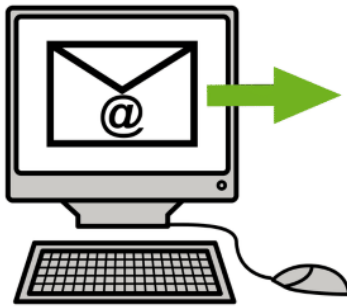
The first article on page number 4
is an introduction about the European
Days of Persons with Disabilities



The second article on page number 9 is about the speeches of Day 1 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities








The third article on page number 24 is about the speeches of Day 2 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities

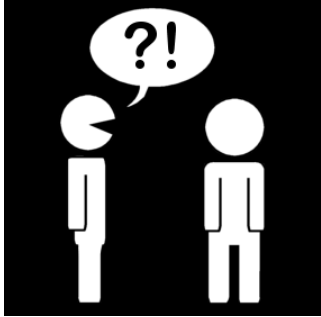





You can **send us ideas** for the next e-newsletter.

If you have ideas, **write us an email**.
Write to
communication@autismeurope.org

 <p>EUROPEAN DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</p> <p>ACCESS CITY AWARD 2022</p> <p>2 - 3 DECEMBER 2021</p> <p>European Commission #EDPD2021 #EUDisabilityRights #UnionOfEquality #EUAccessCity</p>	<h1>Autism-Europe joined the European Day of Persons with Disabilities meeting online.</h1>
 <p>3 December International Day of People with Disability</p>	<p>Every year on 3 December is International Day of Persons with Disabilities.</p>
	<p>On December 2 and 3 there was a meeting online.</p>
	<p>The European Commission and the European Disability Forum carried out the European Day of Persons with Disabilities.</p>

	<p>The European Commission is like the government of the European Union.</p>
	<p>There is a group of 27 European Countries. We say “EU” for short</p>
	<p>The meeting was about how to make the lives of persons with disabilities in EU better.</p>
	<p>Autism-Europe and its members attended the meeting.</p>
	<p>The meeting had three main topics</p>

	<p>The first topic was how to better help persons with disabilities when they are sick.</p>
	<p>The second topic was how to better help persons with disabilities when they need to use digital tools</p>
	<p>The third topic was about what children with disabilities need</p>
	<p>Some cities in the EU won a prize for accessibility.</p>

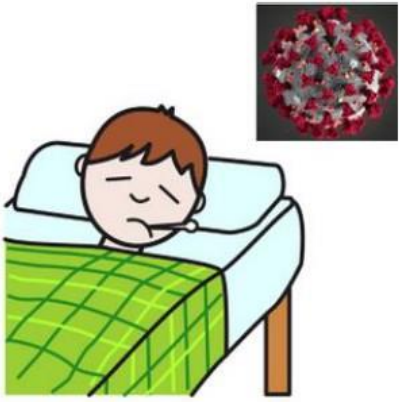
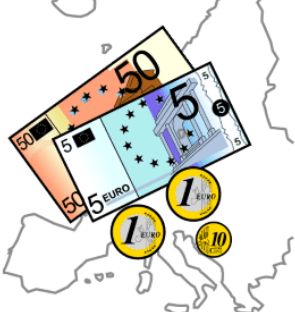


	<p>A city has accessibility when all people can live in it, move around and use everything without problems.</p>
	<p>The prize is called Access City Award.</p>
	<p>The city of Luxembourg in the country of Luxembourg won the first prize</p>
	<p>The city of Helsinki in Finland won the second prize.</p>

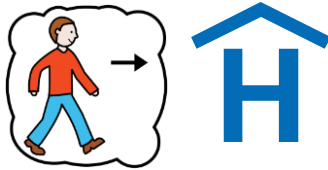


	<p>The city of Barcelona in Spain won the third prize.</p>
	<p>Leuven in Belgium won a special prize</p>
	<p>Leuven turns down the sounds and lights in their fairs sometimes. This can also help people with autism enjoy the fairs.</p>




	<h2>Day 1 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities</h2>
	<p>Helena Dalli spoke at the meeting . She is Commissioner for Equality at the European Commission</p>
	<p>A Commissioner is a person who is responsible for a field of work at the European Commission.</p>
	<p>Helena Dalli talked about the plan for persons with disabilities in the European Union.</p>

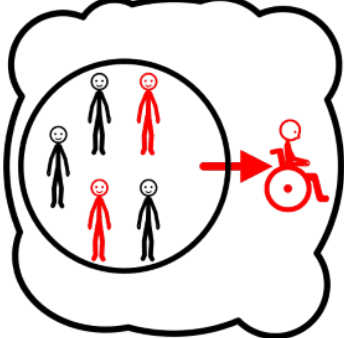
	<p>The plan says what the European Union will do to help with these problems:</p>
	<p>AcessibleEU will bring together ideas and tools how to easier go to places, get services and information</p>
	<p>The European Disability Card is a small card, like an identity card.</p>
	<p>The Disability Card makes it easier to travel across the EU and use services for persons with disabilities.</p>

	<p>The European Commission wants the card to be used in all EU countries.</p>
	<p>The European Commission carries out the Disability Platform . It is a new place for EU countries , disability organisations, and the European Commission to work together.</p>
	<p>A campaign will tell about the EU plan for persons with disabilities in 2022. The campaign will show how the EU helps persons with disabilities to have the same opportunities as everyone else.</p>
	<p>Yannis Vardakastanis spoke. He is the president of the European Disability Forum. This is an organization of people with disabilities in Europe.</p>

	<p>He said the Coronavirus had a big impact on persons with disabilities.</p>
	<p>The European Union gave money to its countries to save people from the Coronavirus. The EU should help persons with disabilities too.</p>
	<p>Sadly, most EU countries did not help persons with disabilities in their plans against the Coronavirus . This must change.</p>
	<p>With the Coronavirus, it is even more necessary than before that:</p>


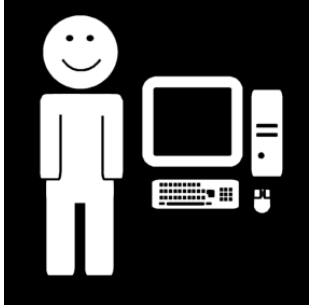



	<p>Persons with disabilities can get better help when they are sick.</p>
	<p>Persons with disabilities get help online and with digital tools as many things are now happening online.</p>
	<p>Children with disabilities go to school with other children without disabilities.</p>


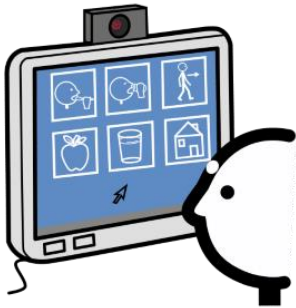

	<p>Rodolfo Cattani spoke. He is part of the European Disability Forum</p>
	<p>He said Health care may not be accessible for people with disabilities. For example, doctors' offices and hospitals may have steps so people in wheelchairs cannot go in.</p>
	<p>People who work at hospitals may not know how to deal with the needs of peoplepersons with disabilities</p>


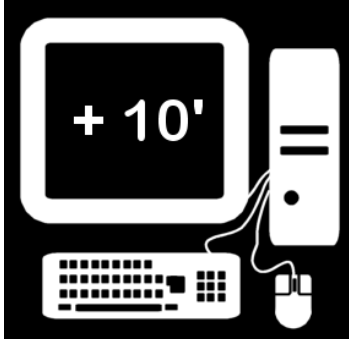
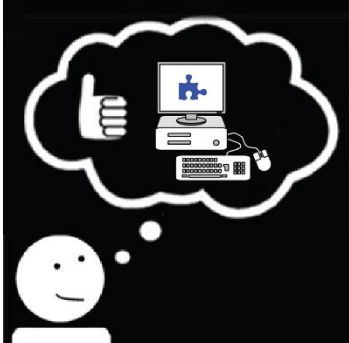


	<p>In some countries, hospitals may not even accept peoplepersons with disabilities.</p>
	<p>The European Union and its countries should work to:</p>
	<p>Make health care accessible to all people with disabilities,</p>
	<p>Make it possible for peoplepersons with disabilities to access health carethe right help when sick in any country of the European Union with no extra costs,,</p>





	<p>CollectGather information and numbers onthat show how the situation is for peoplepersons with disabilities,</p>
	<p>Ask for the views of peoplepersons with disabilities and their organisations when theythe EU makes laws and plans for better health carefor everyone to help when sick.</p>
	<p>Stefan Schreck spoke. He works for the European Commission. Heis works on the plans to help everyone when sick focuses on health care in the European Union.</p>
	<p>The European Commission works with all the countries of the European Union to make sure all people who live in them haveget access to good health carehelp when sick. TAmongst others, the European Commission made:</p>




	<p>The 'EU4Health' programme. This is a programme that aims to make better health care better the help when people are sick everywhere in the European Union.</p>
	<p>The 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan' Cancer is a serious bad disease. Many people in Europe have cancer and some die from it.</p>
	<p>People with disabilities may suffer can have from cancer too so they should be part of this plan.</p>
	<p>Lisa Waddington spoke. She is a law professor at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. She is an expert on the European law for the rights of people persons with disabilities.</p>

	<p>The internet has made many things much easier for people. It could make things easier for peoplepersons with disabilities too.</p>
	<p>For example, if they have access to technology the right digital tools and the internet, they can work and study online.</p>
	<p>But some peoplepersons with disabilities do not have neither access to technolog digital toolsy andnor the internet. NorOr do they may not get support to learn how to use them.</p>
	<p>The European Union and its countries have made some important laws and plans to promote access to technology for all people.</p>
	<p>Sadly, most of these plans do not take into accountinclude the needs of peoplepersons with disabilities as they should.</p>

	<p>The European Union and its countries should:</p>
	<p>Make sure that peoplepersons with disabilities have access to technologythe same digital tools and the internet like everyone else,.</p>
	<p>HearListen to the views of peoplepersons with disabilities and their organisations. This way theythe EU can understand their needs and work to make technology accessible for themensure they get the digital tools they need.</p>
	<p>Humberto Insolera spoke. He is part of the 'European Disability Forum'.</p>

	<p>With COVID-19the Coronavirus, we spend more time at home using technologydigital tools and the internet.</p>
	<p>We spend much of our free time in front of our screenstelevisions or computers watching the news, our favourite movies and series.</p>
	<p>PeoplePersons with disabilities shouldmust have the chance to accessenjoy all these programmes too.</p>
	<p>For that to happen, all programmes, websites, televisions and platforms like Netflix shouldmust be accessible.</p>
	<p>This means, Ffor example, news and other programmes should be available in sign-language so that people who are deaf can understand them too.</p>

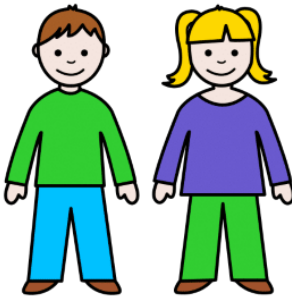
	<p>To make these things accessible the European Union has made two important laws:</p>
	<p>The 'European Audiovisual Media Services Directive'.</p>
	<p>tThis law says that persons with disabilities must have the right to enjoy programmes, movies and series that weeveryone watches on television or platforms like Netflix, too.should be accessible for people with disabilities.</p>
	<p>The 'European Accessibility Act'</p>

	<p>This law says that persons with disabilities must have the right to enjoy televisions and platforms we everyone uses to watch programmes, movies and series too.</p> <p>should be accessible for people with disabilities.</p>
	<p>In all this work, the European Union should not forget to involve ask people persons with disabilities and their organisations what they need.</p>
	<p>Jakob Rosin spoke. He is the president of the Estonian Blind Union. This is the organisation of blind people in Estonia.</p>
	<p>Estonian people with disabilities can do many things online from anywhere they are in the world.</p>

	<p>For example, they can sign a document on their phones or attend important meetings online and represent themselves from distance.</p>
	<p>However, there are still websites and online services that are not accessible not every person with disabilities can use.</p>
	<p>It is important that the European Union keeps working to make all public websites in Europe accessible for people with disabilities.</p>



Day 2 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities



Session 3: Children with disabilities



Many children with disabilities
in Europe cannot go to school
with other children.



Some leave school early
because they do not get the
right support to continue their
studies.



Katarina Ivanković Knežević
works at the European
Commission.

Katarina Ivanković Knežević
talks

about the EU Disability Rights
Strategy.



The strategy describes what
problems people with
disabilities face in the
European Union.

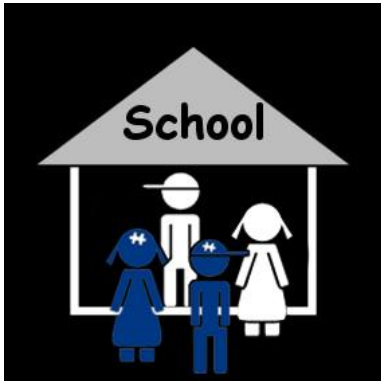


There are other things the EU
does
to help children with disabilities.



There is a new Strategy on
Rights of the Child.

There is the European Child
Guarantee.



These strategies want all
children to get good, inclusive
education.



Inclusive education is when
children with and without
disabilities learn together.



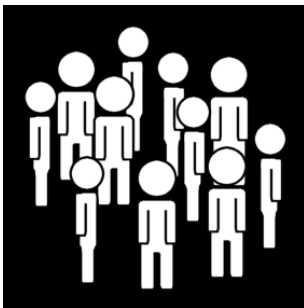
The European Child Guarantee
wants all children to have
access to education and
childcare, to healthcare, to
good and healthy food, and to
have a place to live.



Elisabeth Gosme works for
'COFACE Families Europe'.



This is an organisation that
works for the rights of all
families in Europe. In short, it is
called 'COFACE'.



COFACE has made a group
that focuses on people with
disabilities and their families.
This group is called 'COFACE
Disability



COFACE wants to make sure
that all families can enjoy a
good and safe life.



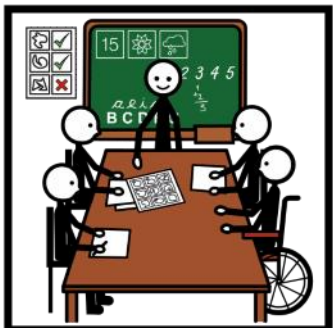
For that to happen, amongst others, the **European Union** should:



Give money to organisations that work to protect the rights of children and their families.



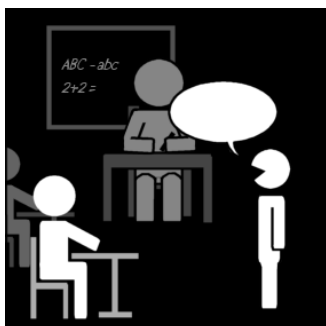
Talk with families and their organisations and understand their problems and needs.



Make sure all children can go to school together. For example, children with disabilities can go to school with other children.

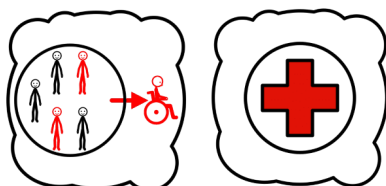


Joost Korte is Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission.



In his speech Joost Korte says that the European Union needs to work

to improve the lives and rights of people with disabilities.



People with disabilities have worse access to health care compared to people without disabilities.



People with disabilities must have the same access to health care as everyone else.



Children belong in their families
and not in institutions



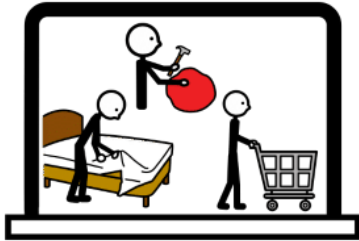
Families of children with
disabilities need support too.



Families need support such as
information and training.



Persons with disabilities must
take part in the digital
transition.



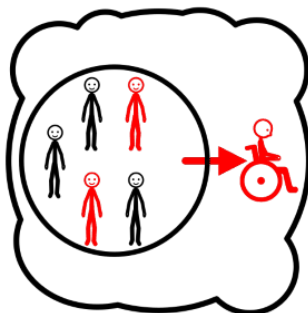
Digital transition means when many things in our lives are being done on the internet.



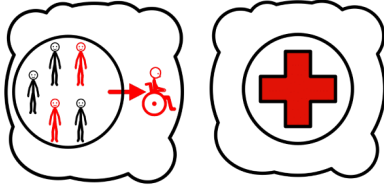
Speech of Ana Peláez. Ana Peláez is vice-president of the European Disability Forum.



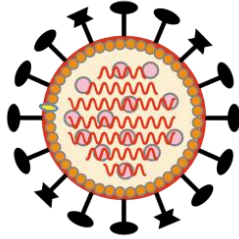
Ana Peláez says it is very important that all the discussions and ideas from the conference are remembered.



Discrimination of people with disabilities must be dealt with immediately.



Persons with disabilities are sometimes denied access to healthcare altogether.



We have seen this since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.



For women with disabilities the discrimination is even greater.



Violent health-related practices against women and girls with disabilities must stop.



Violent health-related practices are forced sterilisation, contraception, and abortion.



Many students with disabilities leave education much sooner than students without disabilities.



EU funds must give money to early childcare and education for children with disabilities.



We want the European Commission to prepare laws to stop violence against women and girls with disabilities.



About this e-newsletter



We hope you have **enjoyed** reading this!



On this publication we follow the **advice** of the organisation **Inclusion Europe**.



We follow their **guidelines** to make the easy to read version of our e-newsletter.

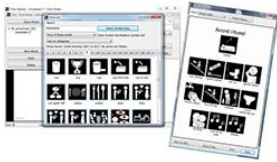


This way we make sure the information is **as clear as possible**.



We use **pictograms** to help make things easier to understand.

PICTO-SELECTOR



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