

IMPLEMENTING UN CRPD FOR THE AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITIONS

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Unia Europejska
Europejski Fundusz Społeczny



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/autismeurope.AE

What is Autism-Europe?



- Autism-Europe is an international association. We aim to **advance the rights of people on the autism spectrum and their families** and to help them **improve their quality of life.**
- Autism-Europe brings together over **80 autism associations** and hundreds individual members in more than 30 European countries, as well as **governments and European and international** institutions.

What is Autism-Europe?



European Economic and Social Committee
a bridge between Europe and organised civil society

Autism-Europe has established a structured **dialogue** with the **European Institutions** and is also active towards the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

Autism-Europe enjoys **NGO participative status** with the **Council of Europe** and, in July 2002, lodged a **collective complaint** with the **European Committee of Social Rights**, becoming the first disability NGO to undertake such action.

To maximise its impact on European Union policies, Autism-Europe also works in strategic alliances with other relevant organisations. Autism-Europe is a founding member of several international umbrella NGOs active in disability and social protection such as

- the **European Disability Forum (EDF)** of which it holds the Vice-Presidency,
- the **World Autism Organization (WAO)**,
- the **European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL)** and
- the **Platform of European Social NGOs**.



In order to implement its objectives and maximise its impact on EU policies, Autism-Europe has built strategic alliances with **European social partners**.

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)



On December 18, 2007, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted **Resolution 62/139**, tabled by the State of Qatar, which declares **April 2** as **World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)** in perpetuity.

This United Nations resolution is one of only three official disease-specific United Nations Days and will bring the world's attention to autism spectrum, a condition present in tens of millions. The World Autism Awareness Day resolution **encourages** all **Member States** to take measures **to raise awareness** about autism spectrum throughout society and to encourage **early diagnosis** and **early intervention**. It further expresses deep concern at the **high prevalence** rate of autism spectrum **among children** in all regions of the world and the consequent developmental challenges.

European campaigns

Each year, Autism-Europe works together with our member organisations to conduct campaigns to raise awareness of autism spectrum and the rights of people on the autism spectrum across Europe.

Activities and events in Europe

Autism-Europe members organise a wide range of events and activities across Europe to mark World Autism Awareness Day each year.

<http://www.autismeurope.org/activities/world-autism-awareness-day/>

Respect, Acceptance, Inclusion



Take it, share it,
and spread awareness
of autism for more
acceptance and inclusion!



World Autism Awareness Day | 2 April

www.autismeurope.org #AutismDay2016

Thank you!

Thank you for your support in previous years, it's your participation that makes the difference!

Let's make it happen together!



Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Ziua internațională de conștientizare autismului: boala afectează un copil Info @AutismEurope ow.ly/vi9ko

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Heute ist #Weltautismustag. 1 Kindem ist autistisch. Me-

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Il-Jum Dinji tal-Awtizmu. L-ispetru tad-dizordnijiet tal-awtizmu jaffetwa 1 minn kull 150 tifel/tifa @AutismEurope ow.ly/vi7Ye

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Dia Mondială Conștientizarea #Autismo. Doenças espectro autismo afetam 1 em 150 crianças. + info @AutismEurope ow.ly/vk9cL

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Svetový deň povedomia o autizme, ktorým trpí každé jedno zo 150 detí. @AutismEurope autismeurope.org

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Παγκόσμια ημέρα παιδιών με αυτισμό. 1 z 150 παιδιά με αυτιστικό πρόβλημα @AutismEurope autismeurope.org #EK

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
#DíaMundial para concienciar sobre el #Autismo, que afecta a 1 de cada 150 niños. Infórmate en ow.ly/vhCJ @AutismEurope

Evropski parlament @Europarl_PL
Svetovni dan avtizma: motnja prizadene enega izmed 150 otrok @AutismEurope ow.ly/vi65y

Parlamentul European @Europarl_EN
Ma van az autisták világnapja. @AutismEurope ow.ly/vkaj3

Evropski parlament @Europarl_DE
#Världsautismdagen: #Autismspektrumstörningar påverkar ungefär vart 150:e barn. Mer information på @AutismEurope autismeurope.org

European Union and UN CRPD

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was **ratified by the European Union in 2010**, it is the **first** legally binding core international human rights instrument to which the EU is a party. Also ratified by all EU Member States, but Ireland.

It is the **first treaty** that allows for **continuous national oversight** of the human rights situation, differently from earlier UN human rights instruments.

In order to implement it, the EU adopted the **Disability Strategy** with **8 areas of priority**:

- Accessibility
- Participation
- Equality
- Employment
- education and training
- social protection
- Health
- External action



Policy context

In **2012**, the **United Nations General Assembly** unanimously adopted **Resolution 67/82**:

"Addressing the socioeconomic needs of individuals, families and societies affected by autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities".



WHO resolution on autism

In May **2014** the 67th World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on **"Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of Autism"** (WHA67.8).

The resolution makes a call to **"develop or update and implement relevant policies, legislation, and multi-sectorial plans, supported by sufficient human, financial and technical resources to address issues related to autism"** (para 1.2)



http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67-REC1/A67_2014_REC1-en.pdf#page=36

Policy context

European Parliament Written Declaration on Autism

In September **2015**, the European Parliament officially adopted the Written Declaration on Autism, co-signed by **418** Members of the European Parliament (**MEPs**).

The document calls on the European Union and its Member States to adopt a **European strategy for Autism**.



Sign the **WRITTEN DECLARATION ON AUTISM 0018/2015** for a European Strategy on Autism that will:

- Support accurate detection and diagnosis across Europe
- Promote evidence-based treatment and support for all ages
- Foster research and prevalence studies
- Encourage the exchange of best practices

Nicola Caputo (S&D), Enrico Gasbarra (S&D), Miriam Dalli (S&D), Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE), Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Renata Briano (S&D), Peter Niedermüller (S&D), Maite Pagazaurtundua Ruiz (ALDE), Daniel Buda (PPE), Barbara Kappel (NI), Lampros Fountoulis (NI), Milan Zver (PPE), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Tibor Szanyi (S&D), Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL), Rosa Estarás Ferragut (PPE), Biljana Borzan (S&D), Marek Plura (PPE), Jose Blanco Lopez (S&D), Ivan Štefanec (PPE), Dubravka Šuica (PPE), Eleftherios Synadinos (NI), Demetris Papadakis (S&D), Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE), Eduard Kukan (PPE), Eva Kaili (S&D), Momchil Nekov (S&D), Marlene Mizzi (S&D), Laurentiu Rebega (S&D), Mara Bizzotto (NI), Georgios Epitideios (NI).

The Written Declaration can be signed in Brussels in the office PHS 07C085/87 or in Strasbourg in the office LOW T02024. You can also sign, scan and send the attached form to WritDeclSign@europarl.europa.eu

<http://www.autismeurope.org/activities/world-autism-awareness-day/world-autism-awareness-day-2015-2/the-european-parliament-written-declaration-on-autism-2015/>

Policy context

European Accessibility Act

Published by the **Commission** on the **2 December 2015**.

Autism-Europe's position paper highlights the need for the Act to present **clear** and **precise accessibility criteria** for persons with disabilities, including autism spectrum.

Detailed requirements are necessary for the legislation to be properly transposed by the member states and to ensure efficient harmonisation of accessibility of goods and services throughout the EU.

It followed on from **recommendations** given to the EU by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **to swiftly adopt** the **European Accessibility Act** with the **participation** of **people with disabilities**.

<http://www.autismeurope.org/publications/newsletter-subscribe/newsletter-63-2016/autism-europe-welcomes-the-proposed-european-accessibility-act-and-issues-its-recommendations-3.html>

Autism Spectrum Disorders in Europe is a new, trans-European programme involving university, charities and expert institutions to increase understanding of autism spectrum.

In ASDEU, Autism-Europe is responsible for:

- **assessing** health, education and existing social policies in Member States to support people on the autism spectrum from all ages, communities and affected families.
- developing a **public health plan** addressing autism.

Common challenges across many countries of the European Union were reflected in the literature review that was conducted, consultation and responses to the survey:

- Late or inadequate diagnosis
- Poor access to interventions
- Lack of proper lifelong education and vocational training opportunities
- Lack of social habilitation
- Lack of access to employment
- Social exclusion
- Lack of awareness

<http://asdeu.eu/>

The ratification of the UNCRPD by the EU and all but one Member State (Ireland) has had an impact on autism service provision:

- Slow but gradual **de-institutionalisation** is taking place across the EU;
- In almost all Member States there is evidence of increasing inclusion of children with disabilities in **mainstream educational settings**;
- Measures to assist disabled people in accessing the **labour market** seen throughout the EU, but **implementation uncertain**.

Mapping of autism policies in the European Union

- Over the last decade, some countries and regions have adopted autism-specific policies. It varies from single policies to all-encompassing **national autism plans or strategies**;
- Currently some Member States have national autism plan or strategies and some have **autism-specific legislations** (France, the UK, Hungary and Denmark, Italy and Ireland). Two countries are currently developing strategy or legislation (Spain and Malta);
- In other countries, autism-recommendations are implemented via more mainstreamed instruments.

www.asdeu.eu

Research and consultation show that autism **strategies having a positive impact have the following characteristics:**

- Practical approach: identification of the **specific needs** of people concerned (children, young people, adults on the autism spectrum, but also families and carers).
- Thus designed **in close partnership with autism organisations**, and generally after public consultation.
- **Flexibility** to allow for revision without recurring to formal procedures
- Requirements for on-going **monitoring**
- **Direction and co-ordination** of services at national and regional levels
- Adequate **public funding** for their implementation.

ASDEU next steps

- **To enhance consultation** throughout the next phases of ASDEU WP4 implementation, with interested stakeholders
- To identify what **common gaps and needs** across Europe can be best addressed at the EU level (European added value)
- Prepare policy recommendations for a **public health plan for autism** to be addressed to the European commission

UN CRPD

Celebrating 10 Years of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention's aim is to “protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.”

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **monitors how countries** that have ratified the Convention **are doing** by reviewing them regularly and issuing concrete **recommendations** on how **violations** can be tackled and **rights** upheld.

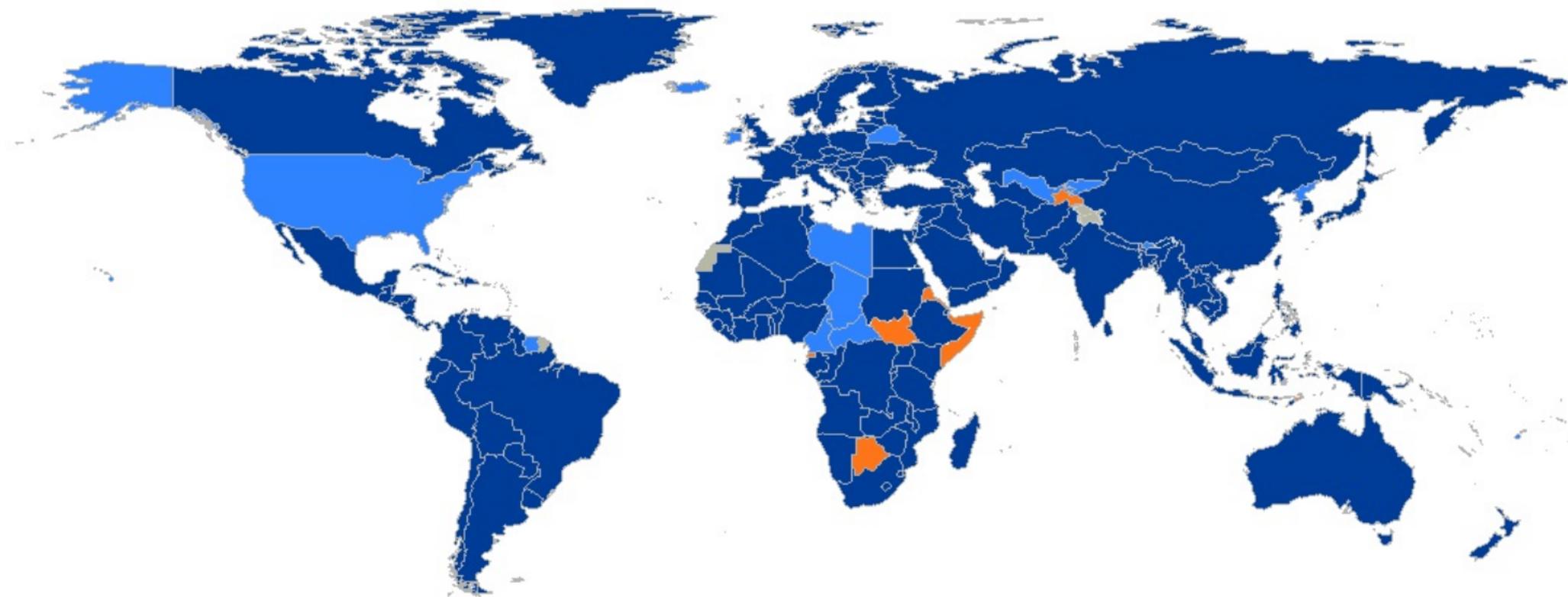
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPD10.aspx>



CRPD10 YEARS
disability rights are human rights

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Last Updated: 26 Aug 2016



Country Status

State Party (166) Signatory (21) No Action (11)

Definition and meta-data: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/MetadataRatificationStatus.pdf>

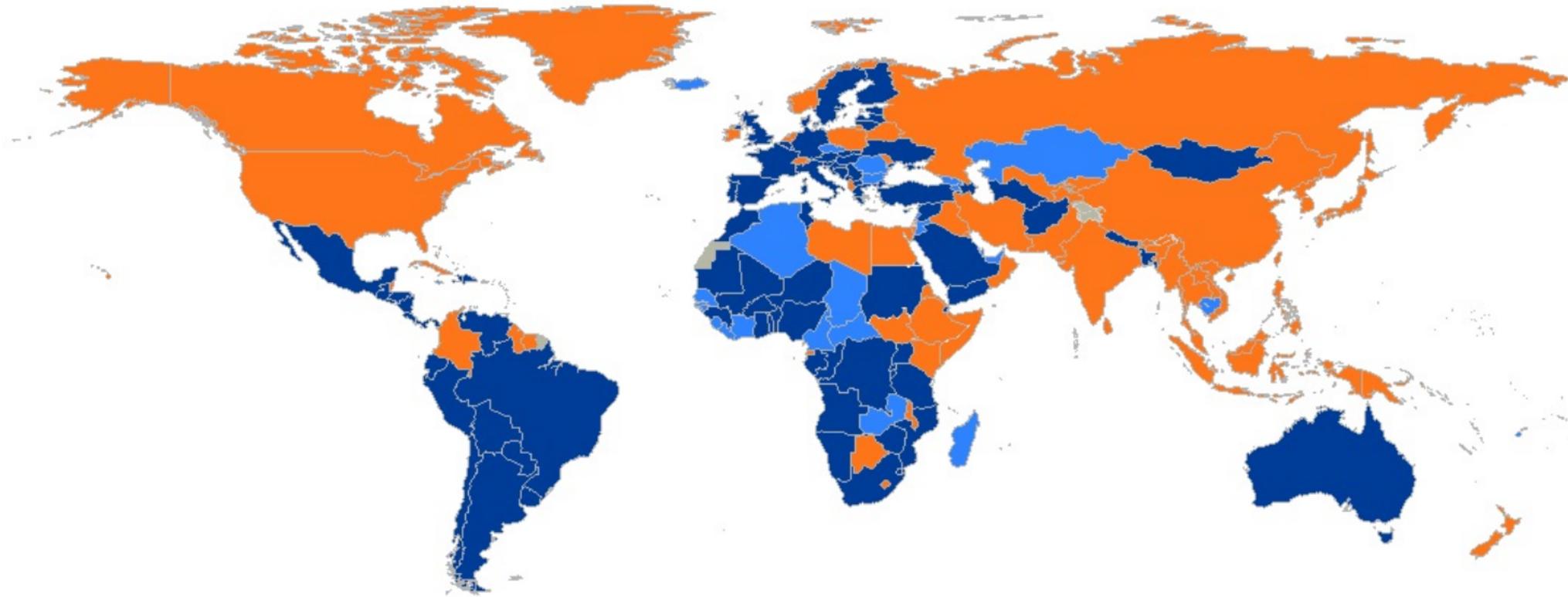
Source: Database of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) <https://treaties.un.org>

For application of treaties to overseas, non-self-governing and other territories, shown here in grey, see <https://treaties.un.org>

Note: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Last Updated: 26 Aug 2016



Country Status
State Party (88) Signatory (29) No Action (81)

Definition and meta-data: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/MetadataRatificationStatus.pdf>

Source: Database of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) <https://treaties.un.org>

For application of treaties to overseas, non-self-governing and other territories, shown here in grey, see <https://treaties.un.org>

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On 5 June 2014, the **European Union** published its **first report on the implementation of the UN CRPD**.

The report outlines **adopted measures**, but does not include an **assessment** of their actual **implementation** and of the **budget** available to do so. In this sense, it also lacks self-criticism.

The report presents a **too strict view of the competences of the EU** and of the actions in which the EU as a whole or the European Commission have been involved and have had impact on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The report **does not address the diversity** of persons with disabilities.

EU report on implementation

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/swd_2014_182_en.pdf

EDF Alternative report on implementation

http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34273

AE Alternative Report

AE Alternative Report on the CRPD Implementation by the EU

Persons on the autism spectrum are **still discriminated** against in many areas of life, **even among persons with other disabilities**.

The **austerity measures** that have been adopted by EU Member States (Mss) to deal with the financial and economic crisis, including the shortage of appropriate and adequate services, support and reasonable accommodations to the particular needs of persons on the autism spectrum **have enhanced their discrimination, dependency** from others, **poverty** and **social exclusion**.

<http://www.autismeurope.org/files/files/autisme-europe-alternative-report.pdf>

The impact of CRPD

The CRPD monitoring process and the Committee's concluding observations:

- give AE the **opportunity** to lobby for **more support** and **better services** for persons on the autism spectrum at EU level.
- **call** on all of us to undertake more efforts to **improve the EU policies and actions** that can have a concrete positive impact on the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

General Comments on UN CRPD

General Comment No 1

Article 12: Equal recognition before the law (Adopted 11 April 2014)

General Comment No 2

Article 9: Accessibility (Adopted 11 April 2014)

General Comment No 3

Article 6: Women and girls with disabilities (Adopted 26 August 2016)

General Comment No 4

Article 24: Right to inclusive education (Adopted 26 August 2016)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GC.aspx>

General Comments No. 4

General comment No. 4 (2016) on Article 24: Right to inclusive education

“[...] persons with disabilities are now recognised under international law as right-holders, with a claim to the **right to education without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunities**. [...]

2 [...] Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 also affirms **inclusive quality and equitable education**. [...] **only inclusive education can provide both quality education and social development** for persons with disabilities, and a guarantee of universality and non-discrimination in the right to education.

3 [...] **Many millions of persons with disabilities continue to be denied a right to education**, and for many more, education is available only in settings where they are isolated from their peers and receive an inferior quality of provision.”

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRPD/GC/RighttoEducation/CRPD-C-GC-4.doc>

Poland and CRPD

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed by Poland on 30 Mar 2007 **ratified** on 25 Sep 2012.

Poland has **not yet signed or ratified the Optional Protocol of UN CRPD**.

By becoming parties to the Optional Protocol, States recognize the competence of the **Committee to receive complaints** from individuals alleging violations of any of the provisions of the Convention.

The Optional Protocol (art. 6) also provides the Committee with the opportunity to undertake **inquiries** if it receives reliable information indicating grave or systematic **violations** of the Convention in a particular State party.

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/CRPD_TrainingGuide_PTS19_EN%20Accessible.pdf

European Committee of Social Rights

Autism-Europe v. France, complaint No. 13/2002

Autism-Europe claimed that the failure to take the necessary steps to ensure the **right to education** of children and adults with autism resulted in **violations** of the right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation in the life of the community, the right of children and young persons to social, legal and economic protection and the prohibition on discrimination.

The Committee stated that the State did not conform with the Charter.

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/CRPD_TrainingGuide_PTS19_EN%20Accessible.pdf

Self-advocacy

Self-advocacy

Self-advocacy is the **defence of their rights in first person** and refers to the civil rights movement of persons with disabilities, born from the larger civil rights movement of the '60s and '70s.

People with disabilities have the right to take control of their lives, talking for themselves, they can always ask for the support of others.

Self-advocacy and UN CRPD

“In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall **closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities**, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.”

Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Report of the Special Rapporteur

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

"37. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has accelerated the process of establishing **organizations of self-advocates** with intellectual disabilities, **of autistic persons** and of other individuals who may need extensive support to express their positions.

Organizations of parents and relatives of persons requiring support have often played a role in providing such support and one can find organizations that include parents as well as self-advocates. **The role of parents** in such organizations **should increasingly move towards the provision of support, with self-advocates in full control.**

States need to ensure that the will and preferences of persons with disabilities themselves are given **priority**.[...]"

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/62

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/SRDisabilities/Pages/SRDisabilitiesIndex.aspx>

Neurodiversity

The definition of neurodiversity was formulated by the Australian Judy Singer, published on New York Magazine in 1998.

It is the idea that **we are all neurologically different**, that people on the autism spectrum do not have a disease but rather a **developmental profile** with a different cognitive development and a delayed social/emotional development, a unique set of characteristics, which can manifest as difference, disability, or gifts/skills, from person to person and within the same person.

Each person has the **right to develop in their own way and at their own pace**, not on the basis of what the outside world considers necessary developmental steps attached to specific physical ages.

Person centred is one of the keys to helping people believe in themselves.

European Strategy for Self-Advocacy

Autism-Europe is open to comprise members from the whole autism spectrum, including **organizations led by self-advocates**.

Informal meetings among AE members and local self-advocates groups are conducted regularly.

In 2015 during an AE board meeting, self-advocates held a workshop "Involving self-advocates" on how to ensure that autism organizations are representative of the whole spectrum

<http://www.autismeurope.org/files/files/conference-bcn-2015/involving-self-advocates-barcelona-03-05-2015.pdf>

In 2016 one self-advocate was elected as the vice-president of AE and one AE full member has chosen to have a self-advocate represent them for all AE meetings and activities.

In some European countries organizations led exclusively by self-advocates already exist for many years.

Publications, activities, meetings and governing bodies of autism organizations have to be **as accessible as possible by people from whole autism spectrum**, implementing UN CRPD, fulfilling in practice disability movement historical right:

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US".

Malta

In May 2016 it became the first country to adopt an **autism acceptance law** to aim for **autism acceptance, not just awareness**, acknowledge the existence of **undiagnosed adults** on the autism spectrum, and promote research into **ageing** on the autism spectrum.

Provisions include:

- to create awareness raising initiatives for the general public
- to empower persons within the autism spectrum
- to maximize the potential for children and adults through their personal autonomy and active citizenship;
- to identify the socio-economic, psycho-educational and health needs of persons within the autism spectrum

Unfortunately, the **Act lacks** strong provisions with regard to **employment**, due to domestic political considerations.

An Autism Support State Plan and further regulations will set out the details.

Hungary, Italy, Belgium

Hungary

After autism national strategic plan they now have **professional figures** specifically trained about autism spectrum.

But it is still lacking quality of education and there are **still special schools**.

Italy

Law on the autism spectrum was approved in 2015, which places treatment for autism among the **essential services** provided by the Italian **healthcare system**. It also updates **guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and care** and promotes **research** in the field.

In Italy there is inclusive mainstream school for all but often there is **lack of qualified personnel**.

Belgium

Francophone Belgium adopts an Autism Plan, a common, proactive **policy to improve the care and living** conditions of all individuals concerned (children, adults, families etc.).

The main objective is to enable **individualised and life-long support** and ensure **inclusion in society** through four common lines of action:

1. An inventory of the lack of solutions for people on the autism spectrum or dependency needs
2. The screening and the diagnosis of disability
3. Information and awareness
4. Training

<http://www.autismeurope.org/publications/newsletter-subscribe/newsletter-64-2016/francophone-belgium-adopts-an-autism-plan.html>

England

New mental health strategy for England announced

Development of a “**care pathway**” for autism which should help autistic people get a **timely autism diagnosis** and **accessible mental health support**.

Although autism is not a mental illness, many autistic people struggle with mental health problems, such as anxiety or depression, and rely on mental health services for support.

This is in large part in response to the National Autistic Society’s diagnosis campaign.

<http://www.autismeurope.org/publications/newsletter-subscribe/newsletter-64-2016/new-mental-health-strategy-for-england-announced.html>

DISCRIMINATION

UN Special Rapporteurs call for an end to discrimination of people on the autism spectrum

Speaking ahead of World Autism Awareness Day in April 2015, United Nations human rights experts highlighted the **need to end discrimination** against people on the autism spectrum, and **celebrate diversity**.

In many countries people on the autism spectrum **lack access to services** which would support, on an equal basis with others, their right to health, education, employment, and living in the community.

When available, services are too often far from human rights friendly or evidence-based. Therefore, they asked for more accessible and inclusive services to be made available to people on the autism spectrum with urgency and on a global scale.

<http://www.autismeurope.org/publications/newsletter-subscribe/newsletter-60/un-special-rapporteurs-call-for-an-end-to-discrimination-of-people-with-autism.html>

DISCRIMINATION

WHO's mental health action plan 2013-2020

“Globally, for instance, annual spending on mental health is less than US\$ 2 per person and less than US\$ 0.25 per person in low-income countries, with **67% of these financial resources allocated to stand-alone mental hospitals, despite their association with poor health outcomes and human rights violations.**”

http://www.who.int/mental_health/publications/action_plan/en/

The **Human Rights Committee**, in its 2014 General Comment No. 35

"emphasizes [...] the particular harms that may result in situations of **involuntary hospitalization**. States parties should make available **adequate community-based or alternative social-care services** for persons with psychosocial disabilities, in order to **provide less restrictive alternatives to confinement**. [...] [A]ny deprivation of liberty must [...] be applied only as a **measure of last resort** and for the shortest appropriate period of time [...]. The procedures should ensure respect for the views of the individual and ensure that **any representative genuinely represents and defends the wishes and interests of the individual.**"

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2fGC%2f35&Lang=en

DISCRIMINATION

WHO's World Health Assembly in its **autism resolution** of May 2014 committed "to shift systematically the focus of care **away from long-stay health facilities towards community-based, non-residential services**".

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67-REC1/A67_2014_REC1-en.pdf#page=36

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (**WGAD**), in 2015 reaffirms: "**The denial of legal capacity of persons with disabilities and detention in institutions against their will, without their consent or with the consent of a substituted decision-maker constitutes arbitrary deprivation of liberty in violation of international law.** [...] Persons with disabilities shall be provided with legal or other appropriate support [...] **peer support** mechanisms, so that individuals receiving services in mental health facilities or residential facilities of any kind may **be informed about their rights and remedies** under domestic and international law, including those contained in the present Basic Principles and Guidelines, and organizations may act on behalf of those detained against their will. [...]"

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session30/Documents/A_HRC_30_37_ENG.docx

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

Issues: lack of qualified support as indirect discrimination

Solutions: need of equal treatment legislation and duty to provide reasonable accommodation

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

Issues: our children more likely to be victims of abuse, bullying, violence than other children

Solutions: to raise awareness and to develop support services in local communities for boys and girls using European Structural Investment Funds

Awareness raising (art. 8)

Issues: invisibility of autism and stigmatisation of persons and their parents

Solutions: to combat prejudice

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

Issues: denial of legal capacity on the basis of autism; lack of support in decision making and empowerment

Solutions: to ensure that all persons in autism spectrum deprived of their legal capacity can exercise all rights

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Liberty & security, exploitation (art. 15-18)

Issues: to prohibit involuntary detention and treatment

Solutions: to include the disability perspective in EU policy on violence, abuse and exploitation

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

Issues: social difficulties and challenging behaviours; need for intense and qualified support and empowerment

Solutions: de-institutionalisation, communities, co-housing; to monitor ESI Funds and to suspend them if there is violation of fundamental rights

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

Issues: communication difficulties

Solutions: to provide information in accessible languages, formats and technologies, including easy-to-read-and-to-understand formats with pictures

Education (art. 24)

Issues: to provide quality education and social development simultaneously

Solutions: inclusive mainstream education by qualified personnel and peer support

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Health (art. 25)

Issues: to ensure quality health care for all

Solutions: need of accessible information, reasonable accommodation; training of professionals

Work and employment (art. 27)

Issues: the most excluded from the labour market: 90% without employment

Solutions: to measure the employment and to increase employment rate in open labour market

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

Issues: need for high level of support and assistance; unemployment and inactivity

Solutions: need to prevent effects of austerity measures on the adequate standard of living

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

Issues: lack of social interaction; exclusion from playing and activities

Solutions: inclusive sport, cultural and leisure activities