



'Equal Europe for Persons with Disabilities' AER Working Group

Draft Work Programme 20102011

Main Priorities

The priorities of the group are to:

- Raise awareness among the regions about the challenges encountered by disabled persons.
- Support regions in responding to the needs of persons with disabilities and creating inclusive societies.
- Support regions in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Mainstream disabilities issues across the AER working structure.

Planned Activities 2010-2011

- Further develop and consolidate the group' membership base.
- Develop cooperation with external partners in order to increase the group's knowledge base and better publicise our work.
- Identify potential funding sources to support regions' activities in this area and potential interregional cooperation projects.
- Organise one thematic seminar addressing the theme 'Equal Europe for Disabled Persons' in the context of 2010-the EU Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.
- Encourage the exchange of regional experience in implementing the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a special focus on Articles 8-Awareness-raising, 9-Accessibility, 25-Health and 28-Habilitation and rehabilitation.
- Monitor EU developments in this area, in particular the development of the EU disability strategy that will succeed the European Action Plan 2008-2009 and the development of EU-level standards for accessibility.
- Create the post of 'Disabilities Ambassador': designate a member region to participate to other AER events and contribute the disabilities dimension, in order to raise awareness and mainstream these issues across the AER's work.
- Enrich the AER website on 'Equal Europe for Persons with Disabilities' with links to members' activities and websites and to external information sources.
- Ensure the new AER website that is currently under development will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Resources

The group is supported by the Committee 2 Secretariat.

The group's activities are financed under the Committee 2 budget. No fixed sum can be allocated to this group. Decisions on funding for the group will therefore be taken following consideration of the overall Committee 2 work plan.

In order to support members' initiatives, it is important to identify other potential funding sources: Foundations, European Social Fund, European Structural Funds, the Progress programme.

Working language: English

Interpretation into other languages may be provided on a case-by-case basis and depending on the Committee budget.

Possible partners

To better further its work and gain from existing expertise, it is important that our network liaises with external partners. The following networks could be potential partners:

- European Disabilities Forum (<http://www.edf-feph.org/>)
- European Parliament Intergroup on Disabilities (<http://www.disabilityintergroup.eu/>)
- European Commission, Disability Unit of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=429&langId=en>)
- Council of Europe (<http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Files/Themes/Disabilities/>)
- Business and Disability (<http://www.businessanddisability.org/>)
- European Network on Independent Living (<http://www.enil.eu/enil/>)