



Council of Europe



Disability Action Plan 2006-2015



**A plan about how to make things better
for people with disabilities in Europe**

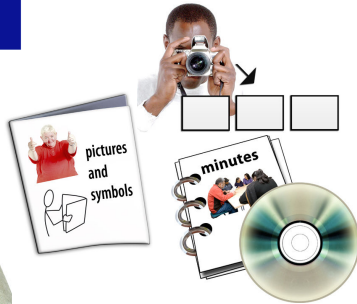
Easy-to-read version



Council of Europe



Participation in Political and Public Life



Information and Communication



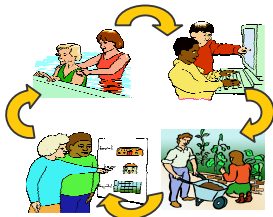
Community Living



Education



Participation in Cultural Life

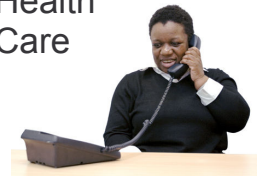


Rehabilitation

Disability Action Plan 2006-2015



Health Care



Employment, Vocational Guidance and Training



Accessibility of Buildings and Transport



Easy-to-read version



Legal Protection



Social Protection



Awareness Raising



Protection against Violence & Abuse



Research & Development

This is an Easy-to-read version of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006 – 2015. The full text is included in Recommendation (2006) 5 of the Committee of Ministers on the Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015,

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/soc-sp/Rec\(2006\)5%20Disability%20Action%20Plan.doc](http://www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/soc-sp/Rec(2006)5%20Disability%20Action%20Plan.doc)



This Easy-to-read version was produced by the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), www.easpd.eu for the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

This text is also available in French.

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This easy-to-read version was proofread by Inclusion Europe.

French version:

*Plan d'action du Conseil de l'Europe pour les personnes handicapées 2006-2015
Un plan sur la façon d'améliorer les choses pour les personnes handicapées en Europe
Version facile à lire*

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1. Introduction

From Iberia to Siberia



Who made this Plan?

The Plan is made by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is made up of 47 countries in Europe (from Iberia to Siberia).



The Council wants to make things better for everyone who lives in Europe.

It wants Europe to be a good place to live.

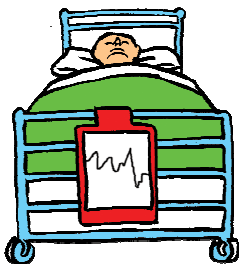


It wants everyone in Europe to live happily together.

(This is called Social Cohesion).

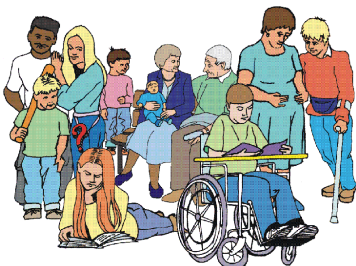
What is this Plan about?

The Plan wants to make things better for people with disabilities who live in Europe.



There has been a big change in the way people think about disability. People with disabilities were seen as patients who needed care.

(This is called the Medical Model).



Now we know people with disabilities should be part of society like everyone else.

(This is called the Social Model).



People with disabilities should have the same rights as everyone else.

Society should ensure access to human rights for all its citizens.

People with disabilities should be treated as equal citizens.
(This is called Human Rights based Model).



The Council of Europe has made an Action Plan for people with disabilities.

What does the Disability Action Plan want to do?



The Plan believes in the same ideas as the UN Convention on Disability.

The Plan will promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society.



The Plan will improve the quality of life of all people with disabilities in Europe.

The Plan wants all people with disabilities in Europe to be treated in a good and fair way. The Plan talks about all the things that will be done to make this happen.



The Plan is from 2006 to 2015.

Every country in Europe is different.

Every country in Europe has different laws.

But the Plan is for everyone.



It says that making things better for people with disabilities is everyone's responsibility.

This means every country.

This means everyone who lives there.

This means disability services.



It also means all government services.



It also means businesses and other organisations.



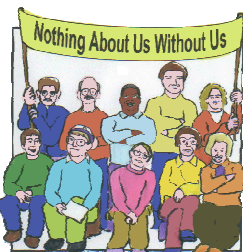
It also means all the citizens.



Everyone has to work together to make it happen.



Most important of all, people with disabilities must be involved in decisions about their lives.



Disabled people say "There must be nothing about us without us".



The Plan has lots of ideas.

The Council of Europe will check how the Plan is going and think about ways to move it forward.

There is a special Forum to do this.

The Plan wants to stop discrimination.

Discrimination means treating people unfairly.

Everyone with a disability can be discriminated against.

Some people with disabilities have extra problems.



Women and girls with disabilities are at risk to be treated badly because they are women.



People with disabilities from black and ethnic minorities are at risk to be treated badly.



People with disabilities from migrant groups are at risk to be treated badly.

Migrant means someone who does not live in one place all the time.

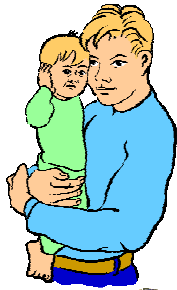
(This is called double discrimination).



There are other plans to help women and other groups.

The people who carry out the Disability Action Plan must join up with the people who carry out the other plans.

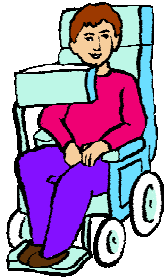
Special Support



Some people with disabilities need special support.
Children with disabilities need special support.



Older people with disabilities need special support.



People with very severe or complex disabilities need special support.



Women and girls with disabilities need special support.



People with disabilities from minority groups and migrants need special support.

(Migrants means people who work and live outside their country).



We must think about new ways to help people with disabilities who need special support.

2. Action Lines

What is in the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan?

The Plan has 15 Action Lines which means areas covered.

Action Line 1:
Participation in Political and Public Life

Action Line 2:
Participation in Cultural Life

Action Line 3
Information and Communication

Action Line 4
Education

Action Line 5
Employment, Vocational Guidance and Training

Action Line 6
The Built Environment

Action Line 7
Transport

Action Line 8
Community Living

Action Line 9
Health Care

Action Line 10
Rehabilitation

Action Line 11
Social Protection

Action Line 12
Legal Protection

Action Line 13
Protection against Violence and Abuse

Action Line 14
Research and Development

Action Line 15
Awareness Raising

Action Line 1: Participation in Political and Public Life

It is very important for everyone to take part in the way their country is run.

This means disabled people too.

Then the country will be a better and fairer place to live.

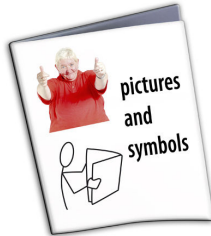
The Plan wants:

- to make it easier for people with disabilities to take part in political and public life.
- to ask people with disabilities and their organisations what they think.
- to have more people with disabilities taking part, including women and young people, and those who need special support.

Every country should make sure that:

- every person with a disability can vote, and do so freely and in secret.
- people with disabilities
 - can stand for election
 - can become part of government.



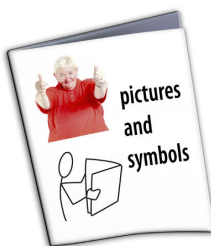


- people with disabilities can join together to have a bigger voice.
- people with disabilities are asked what they think
- and what they think is taken into account.
- information from governments, political parties and other organisations is easy to understand.
- meetings are accessible.
(Accessible means easy to find, easy to understand and easy to enter).

Action Line 2: Participation in Cultural Life

People with disabilities must be able to participate in cultural life like everyone else.

(Cultural means art, sport and leisure).



Every country should make sure that:

- information about culture is easy to understand.
- there is proper access to culture.
- people who organise culture know about disability.
- people with disabilities are helped to be artists.

Action Line 3 Information and Communication



Everyone needs information about what is going on in the world.



When people know their rights, they can join in.



Then people can make proper choices.



There are big changes in how things are communicated – especially with computers and mobile phones.



These changes must be good for everyone.

These changes must be good for people with disabilities.



People with disabilities need accessible information.

(Accessible means easy to find and easy to understand).

Action Line 4 Education

Education is very important for everyone.

Education is something that goes on through life.

This is true for disabled people as well.



People with disabilities should be educated in the same way and same place as everyone else.

This means they will have the same opportunities.



It also means other people will understand disability better.

Every country should make sure that:

- there are laws and rules to help people with disabilities have equal access to education for all of their lives.
- people with disabilities are educated together with everyone else.
- people with disabilities have proper access and personal support.
and they get the proper support from an early age.
- all education staff understand about disability.
- schools and colleges learn about disability, and the rights of people with disabilities.



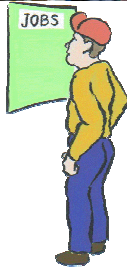


- families are properly involved.

Action Line 5 Employment, Vocational Guidance and Training

People with disabilities want jobs:

- so they be more independent
- so they can be more included in society.



But at the moment people with disabilities do not have as many jobs as everyone else.

Every country should make sure:



- they employ people with disabilities.



- employers understand about disability.
- employers know that people with disabilities can be excellent employees with the right support.



- people with disabilities have the same rights and conditions as everyone else.

This must be true when they apply for a job and when they are in a job.

This must also be true for people who become disabled after they get a job.



People with disabilities need:

- good assessment, training and support.
- to be seen for what they **CAN** do, not what they cannot do.
- to have the chance of proper careers.
- to have benefit systems that make it easy to work.
- to have the chance to work where and how they want. This could also be in their own businesses, in social enterprises, or in sheltered workshops.



Young people or women with disabilities may need special support.

Action Line 6 The Built Environment

Buildings must be accessible to people with disabilities so they can be properly included in society.

This is also important for roads and outdoor spaces.



There should be no barriers.

(This is called Universal Design).

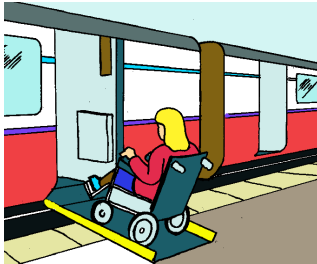


Every country should make sure that:



- all new public buildings and spaces are accessible and safe for people with disabilities.
- all existing buildings are made more accessible and safe.
- people who plan and build new buildings do this based on Universal Design.

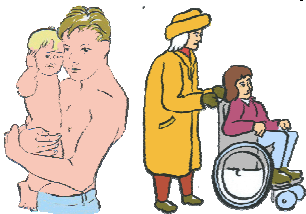
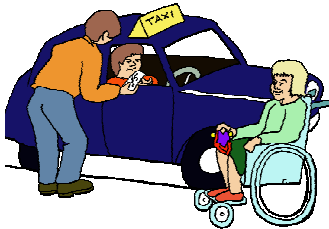
Action Line 7 Transport



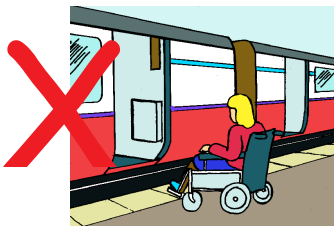
People with disabilities have the right to use transport like everyone else. Then they can get out and about.

Transport means buses, trains, cars and planes.

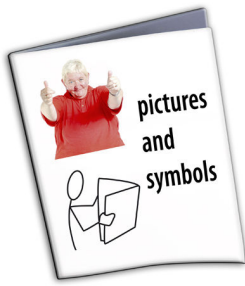
Every country should make sure that:



- transport is safe and accessible. This includes parking.
- accessible transport helps other people, like parents with young children or older people.

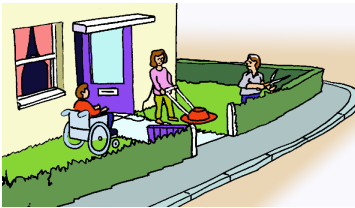


- people with disabilities are not discriminated against.
- there is Universal Design. (this means there should be no barriers).



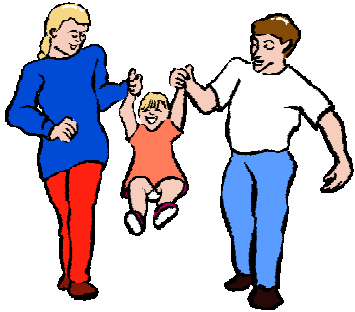
- there is accessible information about transport.
- people who plan transport, and people who run transport,
 - know about disability.
 - consult people with disabilities.

Action Line 8 Community Living



People with disabilities want to live independently in the community.

This includes disabled adults and parents of disabled children.



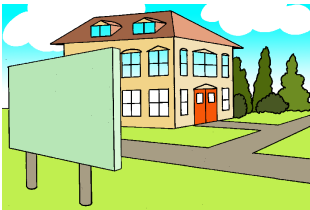
Families with disabled children or disabled adults need help to stay together and to be part of society like everyone else.

Every country should make sure that:

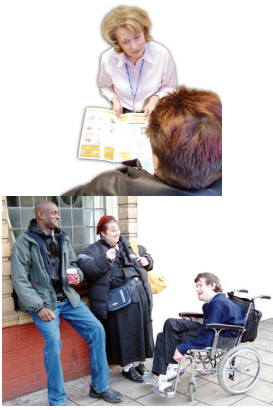
- services are provided in the community, where everyone else lives, not in institutions.

Institutions mean:

- too many people living together
- people not living where they want to
- people not being part of the community.



- people with disabilities and their families:
 - get proper help, information and training
 - have the support which is right for them



This includes:

- health and psychology support.
- day services and therapies.

- the chance to meet together, and to use advocates.

- people with disabilities can live in good houses.
- people with disabilities can live where everyone else lives.
- people with disabilities can employ the personal assistants they want.

- specialist services help people with disabilities to be part of the community.
- mainstream services help people with disabilities to be part of the community.

(Mainstream services are the ones everyone else uses. These include transport).



Action Line 9 Health Care

Every country should make sure that:

- medical care and treatment always respects people’s human and social rights.

- people with disabilities are helped to get equal access to health care.

- people with disabilities get supported as soon as possible.

(This is called Early Intervention).





- health care recognises the different needs of men and women.



- people with disabilities and their families are given good information about their health care.

This must be done with respect, and must be clear and helpful.



- they are fully involved in decisions about their health.



- their family, friends or advocates are involved in these decisions, if the disabled person wants or needs this.
- all health professionals know about disability and how to respond to the needs of people with disabilities.

Action Line 10 Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation means helping people with disabilities to get back to and be part of the community like everyone else.

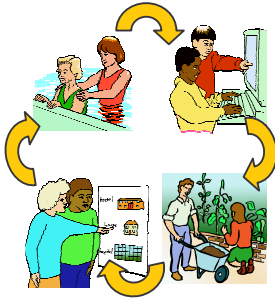
It means being able to get the most out of life.



Every country should make sure that:

- they ask people with disabilities and their families what they want.





- there are good rehabilitation services for:
 - Health
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Vocational training

These services must work together.



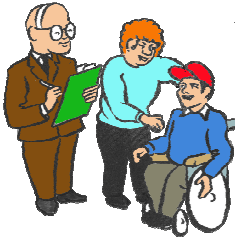
- employers are involved in finding the best way to help people with disabilities get a new job or get back to their old one.

Action Line 11 Social Protection

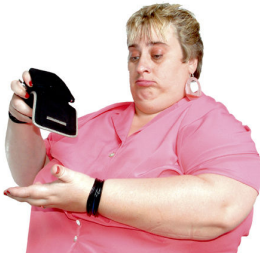


Social Protection means the money government and services need so everyone can be part of the community.

Every country should make sure that:



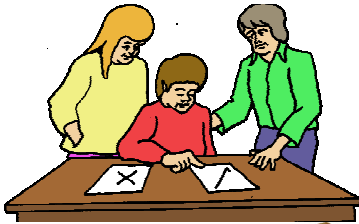
- money and services are provided fairly, and after a proper assessment.



- people with disabilities are not poor.



- the way things are done is easy to understand.



- people with disabilities and their families know all about the services.

- people who provide these services work together with disabled peoples' organisations to make things better.

- The Plan especially wants people with disabilities to be helped to get jobs.

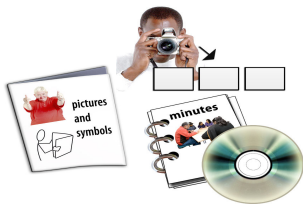
Action Line 12 Legal Protection



People with disabilities must have the same protection by the law as everyone else.

People with disabilities must also have the same access to the law as everyone else.

Every country should make sure that:



- all their laws are fair to disabled people.
- the people who make and manage the laws understand about disability.
- information about the laws is accessible.



- people with disabilities have independent advocates to help them with their legal rights.



- people with disabilities can own property.
- there are no medical experiments on people with disabilities.

Action Line 13 Protection against Violence and Abuse



People with disabilities
must be free from violence and abuse.



People with disabilities need special protection:
– especially women with disabilities,
– especially people with severe disabilities.



Every country should make sure that:

- there are good laws and systems to protect people with disabilities.
- staff who support people with disabilities are trained in how to deal with abuse.
- judges and the police know about disability.
- they take abuse against people with disabilities seriously.

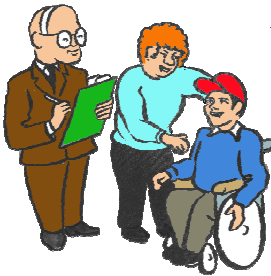


- everyone in society knows abuse must not happen.



- training and information is offered to people with disabilities to help them stop abuse.
- people with disabilities and their families are supported if they have been abused.

Action Line 14 Research and Development



- (Research and development means:
- finding out about good things
 - seeing how we can make things better).

Every country should make sure that:



- they collect information in the same way.
- they do not abuse private information.



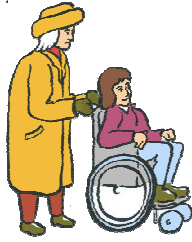
- the information helps people with disabilities have equal rights.



- they look for new ideas.
- they share new ideas.



- people with disabilities are involved in research.



- there is special attention on how to help:
 - women with disabilities
 - older people with disabilities
- learn better ways to build and make things to help people with disabilities.

Action Line 15 Awareness Raising



People who do not have a disability need to:

- know about disability
- see disabled people as equal
- and as people who have the same rights



- as people who have lots to give.

(This is called Awareness Raising).



But not everyone thinks this way right now.

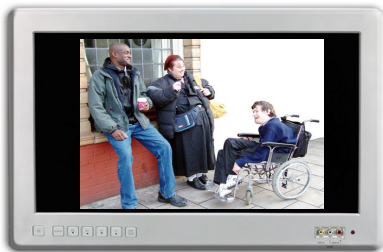
We need to help people change the way they think.

(This is called changing their attitude).

This is very important.

Good laws and support are not enough.





Every country should make sure that:

- there are good images of people with disabilities in government information.
- they tell everyone about the equal rights of people with disabilities.
- they tell everyone about what people with disabilities can give.
- they work with the media.
(Media means things like TV, radio, films, magazines, newspapers, adverts).
- they show more people with disabilities doing ordinary things, and tell people more about disability.
- they help people with disabilities have good contacts with the media.

3. Cross Cutting Aspects



People with disabilities can be treated unfairly.



Some other groups can also be treated unfairly.

These include children, women, older people, people from minority groups and migrants.

(Migrants means people who work and live outside their country).



The Council of Europe and the member states have special plans to help these other groups.



Sometimes people from these other groups also have disabilities.

So the Disability Action Plan must fit these other plans.

(This is called Cross Cutting).

4. Implementation and Follow-Up



Implementation means getting things done.

It is up to each country to make the Plan happen.



Each country has different laws,
money and ways of doing things.

Each country has different ideas
about what to do first.



But the Plan wants **every** country to:

- make sure that people with disabilities have equal rights.



- involve people with disabilities all the time.



- make sure that disability plans work with other plans.



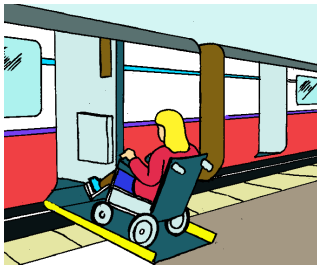
The Plan wants **every** country to:

- have better Universal Design (no barriers).

- make services better.



- have good staff, who have good training.



- make disability part of the mainstream services.
(Mainstream services are the ones everyone else uses).



What will the Council of Europe do?

The Council will help member states if they ask for help.



The Council will collect information from each member state.



The Council will help people in different countries learn from each other.

The Council will share good ideas.



The Council will give reports to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.



It will involve people with disabilities, and those who support them.



It will do all this through a Forum.

(Forum means a place when people meet to share ideas.)

800 million of citizens in Europe
47 Member States



**COUNCIL
OF EUROPE**

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