



KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE EUROPEAN DISABILITY STRATEGY

We welcome the Commissioner's commitment and consultation and look forward to an ambitious post-2020 commitment will be taken to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including people with **psychosocial disabilities**, through the adoption of a strategy on the implementation of the UN CRPD, **with the allocation of a budget, a time frame for implementation and a monitoring mechanism.**

Key objectives and areas of action identified by Mental Health Europe include:

1. **Promoting equality and autonomy of persons with disabilities**, including psychosocial disabilities, by recognising their **right to legal capacity** and to **free and informed consent**. MHE understands that legal capacity is an area in which the EU does not have full competences, which remain within national powers. However, people deprived of their legal capacity are also deprived of their rights enshrined in European Union treaties and legislation;

There are a number of ways in which the Commission and the EU could advance the understanding of autonomy and also its relationship to the use of coercion in mental health treatment, such as through **cross-national training programmes** to educate judiciary and medical professionals across Europe, **exchange of good practices, awareness raising activities** to promote the paradigm shift of the Convention, and **financial support for joint actions** which could help Member States who are interested in implementing good practices on supported decision-making for people with psychosocial disabilities. This would allow the European Commission to address some of the Concluding Observations by the UN CRPD Committee

2. Guaranteeing a **decent standard of living to all, including access to social protection, independent living in the community and employment**, all of which are **key determinants of mental health**. Promotion of DI should continue, and the implementation of the transition from institutions to community-based care should be improved via **monitoring and allocation of resources**.

3. Promoting **disability in all policies**, as for example in **migration policies**. People in vulnerable situations (e.g. migrants and refugees with disabilities) also deserve a special focus, as they are often less visible and encounter countless barriers in accessing services and have their rights upheld.

4. Ensuring the inclusion of a **gender-based and intersectional approach** and an understanding of **accessibility that applies also to psychosocial disabilities**.

5. Strengthening the **meaningful involvement of PwD**, as well as their representative organisations, in all matters that concern them. In order to have the adequate capacity to engage, civil society organisations should receive **adequate and independent funding** to carry out their work. This is why it is important to secure adequate funding for civil society and disability in the next MFF.

Finally, it is imperative for the new strategy to have a **strong structure and baseline**, which translates into:

- Comprehensive objectives with clear benchmarks and indicators;
- Adequate and well-resourced monitoring mechanism;

- Adequate budget for its implementation;
- Disability focal points in all relevant Directorates of the European Commission and relevant EU institutions and agencies with an interinstitutional coordination mechanism;
- A plan for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN CRPD