



Making the EU System Work for Disability Advocacy

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Training for Cerebral Palsy-ECA



Advocacy tips for disability organisations

The basics

- Get to know the [division of competences](#)
 1. Exclusive (e.g. customs, trade, competition)
 2. Shared (e.g. internal market, transport, social policy, consumers)
 3. Supporting (e.g. education, culture, civil protection)

- Get to know the [legislative procedure](#)

Right of initiative: European Commission

Co-legislators: European Parliament and Council of the EU

EDF resources

[EDF Toolkit: How to lobby EU institutions at national level](#)

[EDF Training on the European Parliament](#)

- [First video](#)
- [Second video](#)

[Enforcement Toolkit](#)

1. Know the process

Example: [European Disability Card](#)

Useful resources:

- [European Commission Have your say portal](#)
- [Parliament legislative observatory](#)
- [Council Document Register](#)

2. Adapt your message

Example: [Web Accessibility Directive campaign](#)

Different interlocutors – different level of details and political/technical discourse – different level of influence.

1. Commissioners / Countries high representatives / EP high level reps.
2. MEPs / Commission heads of unit and up
3. MEPs assistants / Commission responsible officers / Council attachés (Presidency)
4. Policy advisors / officers / attachés

3. Be helpful (and nice)

Example: [EDF amendments on passengers rights regulation.](#)

- Facilitate their work – provide what they need
- Act as a reliable (quick responding) experts
- Recognize their work (speeches, events...)
- Bring the expertise & evidence – drive the political agenda

Example: [EDF Human Rights Reports series](#)

4. Our “allies”, entry points & resources

European Commission:

- Disability Unit – DG JUST D.4 (just-d4@ec.europa.eu)
- [Disability Platform](#)
- [Equality Taskforce](#)
- [European Citizens Initiative](#)

European Parliament:

- Committees EMPL, LIBE & PETI ([petitions portal](#))
- [Disability Intergroup](#)
- [CRPD Network](#)



[European Economic & Social Committee permanent group on disability](#)

[EU CRPD Monitoring Framework](#)

[Eurostat Disability Database](#) & [DOTCOM database](#)

5. (One-off / long-term) Partnerships

Example: EDF EU
broadcasters proposal for
the Audiovisual Media
Services Directive.

Example Joint Letters,
statements, position
papers...



6. Mobilise your constituency

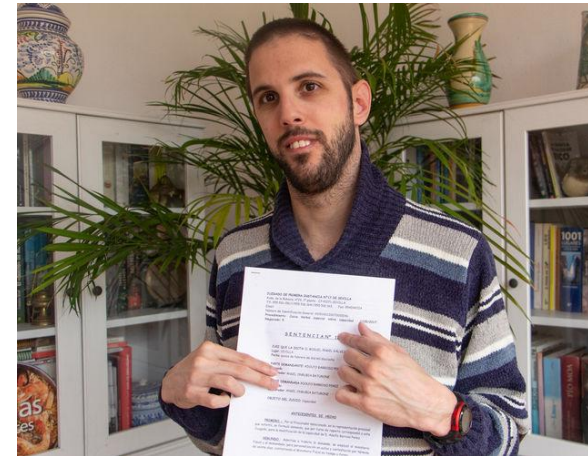
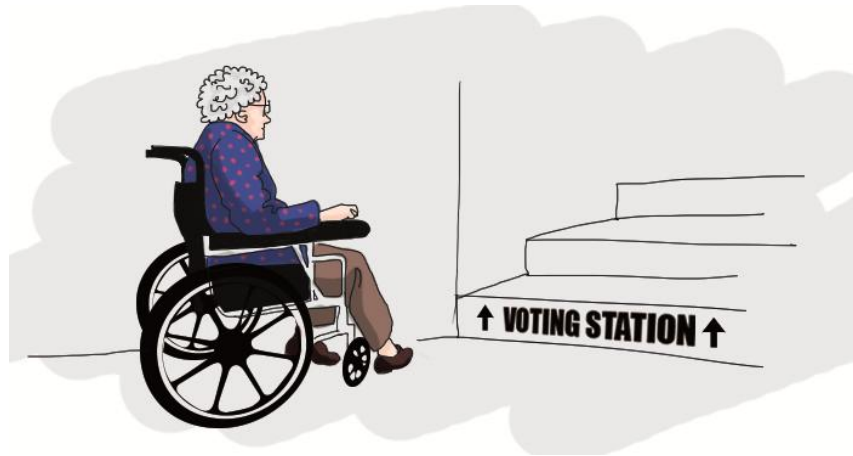
Ex. EAA demonstration and EPPD



Informative leaflets, toolkits, letters to governments, workshops, webinars...

7. Raise awareness of general public

Ex.: online [petition Accessible elections for all](#)



Events (ours & others), exhibitions, media and social media – personal stories.

8. Media

Ex.: [POLITICO news on the Accessibility Act](#)

Ex.: [Op-Ed on Why 100 disabled Europeans are worried about the next EU budget](#)

- Keep very low number of press releases
- Relevant (e.g. news, conflict, scoop...)
- Personal stories
- Easy language

9. Social media

Ex.: [Scooters in Brussels](#)

- Mobilize constituency
- Attract media
- Tag policy-makers
- Digest information (ex. [Ombudsman decision into a tweet](#))
- Personal better than institutional

10. Final ~~considerations~~ perceptions

European Commission

European Parliament

Council of the EU



Thank you!

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