



This project is funded
by the European Union



Bridging the Gap II

Disability Inclusion in International
Cooperation – The way forward

Technical seminar and Policy
Dialogue Conference
Concept Note

8 and 9 June 2021
Online sessions





This project is funded
by the European Union

Introduction and background

The rights of persons with disabilities are protected and promoted by the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Convention has served as the major catalyst in the global movement in shifting the view on persons with disabilities as objects of charity, medical treatment and subjects of social assistance towards the human rights approach recognising them as full and equal members of society.

It is also the only UN human rights instrument with an explicit development dimension: article 32 of the CRPD acknowledges the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts for its implementation and promotes measures to ensure that development cooperation is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities. The European Union and its 27 member States are part to the Convention and recognize the importance of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2017 European Consensus on Development. Furthermore, the European Commission has recently released the European Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030 aims at improving the situation of persons with disabilities in Europe and with its external action.

Over the past four years, the European project [Bridging the Gap II \(BtG-II\)](#) has been contributing to the mainstreaming of the disability component in international development cooperation. The project has been supporting the practical implementation of the human rights-based approach and the consideration of disability as a cross-cutting issue of utmost importance in all projects, programmes, and initiatives of cooperation, instead of being a standing-alone pillar. This approach is key to ensure the full implementation of the CRPD and of the Sustainable Development Goals' principle of "leaving no one behind".

The project contribution has been framed in the "Knowledge and Learning Management Strategy" (KMLS). The Strategy pivoted around three pillars:

- Collect and Produce.
- Learn and Share.
- Learn and Train.

The main BtG-II outputs produced under the umbrella of the KMLS are available on the [project website's e-Library](#). A non-exhaustive list of project and non-project resources is available at the end of this document.

The work of Bridging the Gap II builds on the growing momentum for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international cooperation. Relevant steps forward include, but are not limited to:



This project is funded
by the European Union

- [The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy](#).
- [The European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#), which includes specific references to inclusion in the external action of the EU.
- The creation and fostering of the network [Global Action on Disability \(GLAD Network\)](#).

To capitalize the project experience and expand synergies with others, BtG-II organises a technical workshop and a Policy Dialogue Conference to contribute to the current debate on disability-inclusive development by sharing experiences and expertise to enhance coordination, cooperation, and commitment for inclusion in line with the provisions of the UN CRPD and the SDG.

The Conference is structured in two online sessions:

- a technical workshop on Day 1 (8 June 2021, from 2:30pm to 5:00pm CET).
- a policy dialogue conference on Day 2 (9 June 2021, from 2:30pm to 4pm CET).

Objectives

The overall objective of the Conference is to **reinforce the policy dialogue on disability-inclusive development cooperation based on good practices and lessons generated by BtG-II.**

The specific objectives are:

- to share good practices and experiences to foster disability inclusion in development cooperation at the global level.
- to propose new innovative solutions and concrete commitments for inclusion, also with the involvement of the organisation of persons with disabilities and the international donor community.
- to propose a path for future action and related accountability mechanisms.

Target audience

- BtG-II partners.
- International cooperation actors (agencies for development cooperation, EU development practitioners, UN organisations, INGOs).
- Organisations of persons with disabilities.
- Research, academia.



This project is funded
by the European Union



Practical information

Registration links:

- Technical workshop, June 8th: bit.ly/WayForward-1
- Policy dialogue conference, June 9th: bit.ly/WayForward-2

Interpretation: English, French, Spanish, International Sign

What is Bridging the Gap II?

“Bridging the Gap II – Inclusive Policies and Services for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (BtG-II) is an initiative funded by the European Union aiming to the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. BtG-II is implemented by a consortium coordinated by FIIAPP – Spanish Cooperation and composed by the Austrian Development Agency, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Disability Forum, the International Disability and Development Consortium and, as observers, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

BtG-II works in five countries (Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan) to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities as well as at the global level to reinforce disability inclusion's mainstreaming in international cooperation through a dedicated Knowledge and Learning Management Strategy (KMLS). The activity described in the present document is framed in the context of said KMLS.

For further information on Bridging the Gap II, please visit the official website www.bridgingthegap-project.eu



This project is funded
by the European Union

Non-exhaustive list of suggested readings for the participants

1. 2016: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Committee to the European Union (EU), Concluding Observations.
2. 2016: Austrian Development Agency (ADA), social standards training including disability for ADA Headquarter.
3. 2016: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), From the MDGs to Sustainable Development for All.
4. 2016-2020: Light for the World, Making disability inclusion work INNOVATION FOR INCLUSION.
5. 2017: A tool for disability mainstreaming in development cooperation projects, Finnish Disability and Development Partnership.
6. 2017: UN WOMEN, Making the SDGs count for women and girls with disabilities.
7. 2017: CBM, Disability Inclusive Development Toolkit.
8. 2018: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), The situation of women with disabilities.
9. 2018: Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS), Guidelines for mainstreaming disability and social inclusion in aid projects.
10. 2018: Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional y Desarrollo (AECID), Guía para la Inclusión de la Discapacidad en la Cooperación para el Desarrollo.
11. 2018: European Disability Forum (EDF) – SDGs European Human Rights Report.
12. United Nations - Disability. Department of Economic and Social affairs: Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
13. French Agency for Development (AFD) and Humanity and Inclusion - (HI - Handicap International), Disability and Development.
14. 2021-2025 European Union, EU Gender Action Plan III.

Bridging the Gap II readings

15. A preliminary Study of call for proposal in geographic and thematic instruments. General overview by [clicking here](#). [Easy-to-Read version](#).
 - Country Reports:
 - [Ecuador](#)
 - [Ethiopia](#)
 - [Paraguay](#)
 - [Sudan](#)
16. [The unsteady path Towards meaningful participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs.](#)



This project is funded
by the European Union

17. [Protection of the human rights of migrants with disabilities](#), as results of the participation to the Global Disability Summit 2019.
 - [Arabic](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
 - [French](#)
18. [Contribution to the European Commission's consultation for the next European Disability Strategy.](#)
19. [Contribution to the European Commission's consultation for the next Gender Equality Action Plan.](#)
20. [Inclusive Public Procurement Guidance Note.](#)
21. [Study on the contribution to CRPD implementation by project partners.](#)
22. [The Empowerment of Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Compilation of Implemented Activities and Identified Best Practices 2018-2020.](#)
23. [Bridging the Gap Infographic 2020 – Results achieved.](#)