The EU commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation

1st learning space – Bridging The Gap II
Vienna, 15 May 2018

European Commission
DEVCO B3 – Migration, Employment
Who does what?
Main actors in external aid

**European External Action Service (EEAS)**
*EU’s diplomatic service in charge of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the coherence and coordination of EU’s international role, the running of EU Delegations (>140)*

**DG International Cooperation & Development (DEVCO)**
*Responsible for designing development policy and delivering aid throughout the world*

**DG Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)**
*Responsible for EU’s relations with 16 Eastern and Southern neighbours, and Enlargement of EU*

**DG Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)**
*Responsible for humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction, EU civil protection mechanism and coordination*
4 Main actors in external aid – Political level

- **Federica Mogherini**
  High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy / Vice President EC

- **Neven Mimica**
  International Cooperation & Development

- **Johannes Hahn**
  European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations

- **Christos Stylianides**
  Civil protection and Humanitarian Aid
EU development cooperation in figures
Geographical distribution of EU funds in 2016
(OECD 2018, Distribution of net ODA Indicator)

US $ billion
- Africa
- Asia
- America
- Europe
- Oceania

Not including ODA Multilateral Aid, Bilateral unallocated, Unspecified
More information?

DEVCO’s annual reports (https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid)
How do we deliver aid?
Aid delivery methods

Projects
A series of activities aimed at bringing about clearly specified objectives within a defined timeframe and a defined budget.

Sector policy support
Programmes which support the partner government’s programme for a specific sector (health, education, transport, etc.). Implemented through Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC), pooled funding or project approach.

General budget support
Large money transfer to the national treasury of a partner country in support of a national development policy. Use of country procedures.
Financial instruments – Geographical coverage
Financial instruments – Thematic focus

➢ The Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) hosts 2 important thematic programmes for disability inclusion:
  - Global Public Goods and Challenges;
  - Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities.

➢ The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) aims to help establish democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights and basic freedoms.
Policy framework
Global framework

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Concluded by the EU in January 2011;
- Covers all internationally recognised civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights;
- Sets out the obligations of states to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all persons with disabilities;
- Concluding Observations by the Committee (September 2015).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- A disability-inclusive agenda -> Leaving no-one behind;
- Disaggregated data...
At the European level: new European Consensus on Development

• Acknowledges the link between poverty and disability;

• Makes explicit reference to the UN CRPD;

• Pledges to vigorously promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full inclusion in society and their equal participation in the labour market;

• Reaffirms the rights based approach, promoting all human rights and tackling the multiple discriminations faced by vulnerable persons.
Other key guiding European strategies

**European Disability Strategy 2010-2020**
- Priority 8: External Action;
- Twin-track approach, accessibility, support to DPOs, etc.

**Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019**
- Mainstream disability concerns in human rights actions;
- Develop targeted actions to remove barriers;
- Strengthen mechanisms to promote, implement, monitor CRPD.

**Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020**
- Intersection of gender with other discriminations;
- Systematic gender analysis.
What about disability?
EU approach to **disability** in development cooperation

Guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

**Art. 32 on International Cooperation**

"Use development cooperation to **support national efforts for the realization of the objectives of the Convention**"

"Ensure that **all** development cooperation policies and programmes are **inclusive of and accessible to** persons with disabilities".

**But all other articles apply!**

Examples: art. 24 on Education or art. 27 on Work and Employment or the principles of **participation** and **accessibility** should guide any mainstream bilateral programme.
What did the UN Committee say? (Sept. 2015)

It acknowledged **some progress**:

- In including rights of persons with disabilities in the financing of its external actions;

- In advocating for the inclusion of disability in the SDGs & the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
• **BUT** showed concern at the lack of a systematic and institutionalised approach to mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities and **recommended to**:

- Adopt a harmonised policy on disability-inclusive development and a systematic approach to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in all programmes;

- Take the lead in the implementation of disability-inclusive SDGs;

- Disaggregate data/monitor the rights of persons with disabilities in EU programmes;

- Interrupt any programme that perpetuates the segregation of persons with disabilities -> reallocate funding towards CRPD compliant projects.
What is the state of play?

Disability-specific projects:

➢ 2010-17 EU funded > 450 disability-specific projects in 100 countries (approx € 180M) -> Mostly grants through CSOs.

➢ Main areas of action: promotion of Human Rights, social inclusion (eg employment, education, health), capacity development, community-based rehabilitation.

➢ No DAC Code! How to monitor (quantitatively & qualitatively)?

Mainstreaming disability in bilateral cooperation:

➢ Organisational challenge > staff capacity building at HQ and country levels.

➢ Accessibility requirements included in the main funding Instruments, the Common Implementing Regulation & PRAG.
Other external action measures...

Advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities

**Human Rights Dialogues: 43 dialogues (2016)** with non-EU countries or regional groupings: key instruments for the EU to engage bilaterally on Human Rights, including on specific themes such as discrimination on the grounds of disability, support to CSOs.
Overall objective: to contribute to the socio-economic inclusion, equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in LICs and MICs through more inclusive and accountable institutions and policies.

- **Component 1 at global level** (OHCHR): Elaboration of HR indicators for the CRPD, Guidance for implementing disability-inclusive SDGs.

- **Component 2 at country level** (Consortium): Strengthening national capacities in 5 countries to develop, implement and monitor disability-inclusive sector policies and services.
Objectives:
- Promote and support the ratification, effective implementation and monitoring of the CRPD;
- And foster partnership between HR CSOs and DPOs.

Indicative activities:
- Protection against all forms of discrimination on the basis of disability;
- Supporting partnership between CSOs and public institutions;
- Improving the capacities of DPOs;
- Awareness raising campaigns...
The GLAD Network

➢ The EU shares best practices with and learns from other donors & foundations committed to disability inclusion in development and humanitarian actions

➢ Working group on social protection: draft joint statement on inclusive social protection, already endorsed by several organizations, aiming at designing social protection systems that work for persons with disabilities:
  o Benefits integrating the extra-costs of disability;
  o Benefits allowing persons with disabilities to work;
  o What kind of eligibility criteria?
  o ...
Useful Links
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Website
https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/home_en

Capacity4Dev
http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/

https://www.facebook.com/europeaid

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