

Include

Special issue for the European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021

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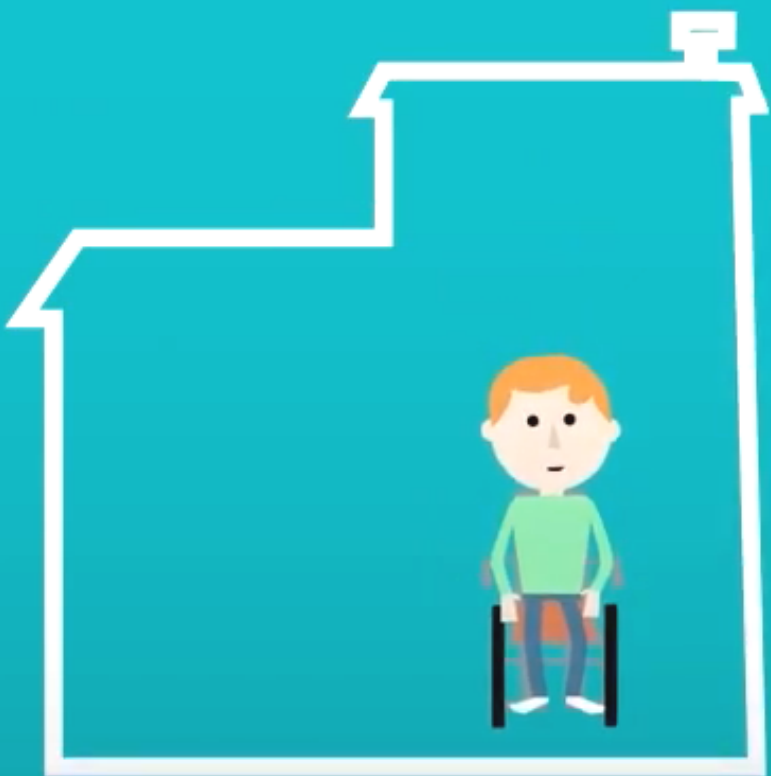
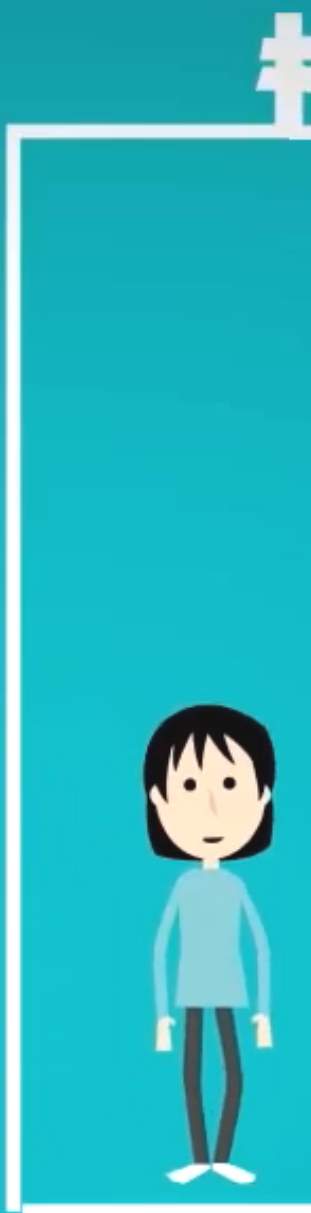
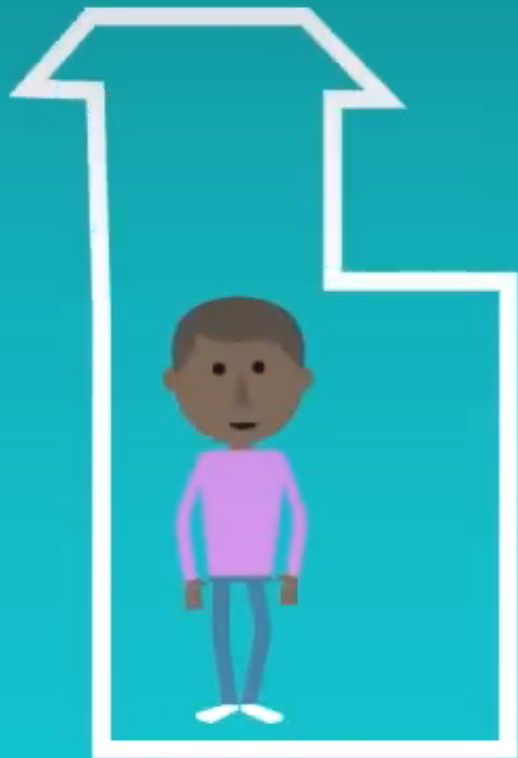
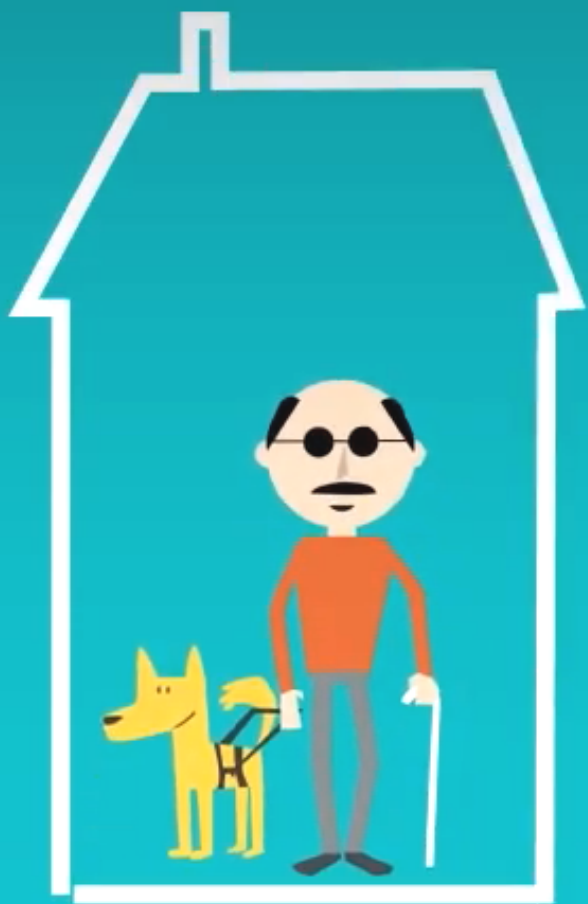
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European Day of Persons with Disabilities

2 December 2021

We are fighting
for a Europe
where people
with intellectual
disabilities enjoy
the same rights
as everyone else.

Jyrki Pinomaa

President of Inclusion Europe

European Day of Persons with Disabilities



EDPD conference

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities is a conference organised by the European Commission and the European Disability Forum.

The conference is sometimes called EDPD for short.



The EDPD takes place every year at the beginning of December to mark the European Day of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2021 the conference took place online.

The conference was about healthcare, digital services, and education.

You can find the program (including in easy-to-read) and the recording of [the conference here](#).

Healthcare

Access to healthcare

Persons with disabilities are vulnerable to deficiencies in health care services, which increase their risk of secondary conditions, co-morbid conditions and age-related conditions.

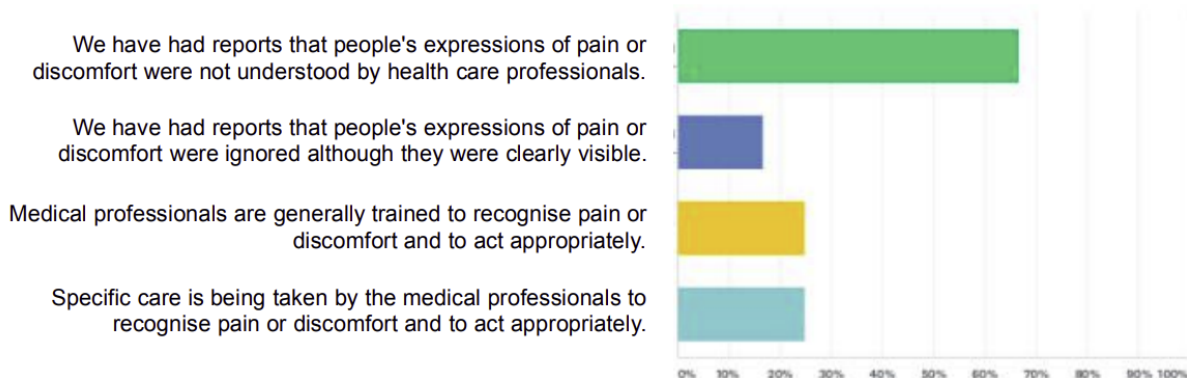
- *4 times [more](#) persons with disabilities report unmet healthcare needs than those without disabilities*

Access to information is crucial for patients with intellectual disabilities to receive and understand relevant health information and to communicate with health care professionals.

Access to information is also important for navigating the health care system. The form or the content of information can serve as barrier to accessing information for many persons with disabilities.

In 2017 Inclusion Europe did a study on access to healthcare. Here are some of the things we found:

- Healthcare staff find it difficult to communicate directly with people with intellectual disabilities about their situation. Many speak only with the accompanying support person, or simply do not explain procedures or medication.
- People with intellectual disability are not respected and treated as other patients by the health professionals.
- Expressions of pain or discomfort are not taken seriously.
- Sexual and reproductive healthcare is not accessible.



Many medical professionals often do not accept the consent of a person with intellectual disability.

50% of the respondents knew of medical procedures done against the clearly expressed will of the patient.

Consequences

Disability is not a disease or illness.

But bad access to healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities can lead to long-term consequences.

- Some countries estimate 3 times higher mortality.

Find the [full report here \(.pdf\)](#).

More reading:

- review of [deaths of people with intellectual disabilities](#) in the UK
- Report on [violence against women with intellectual disabilities](#)

Covid pandemic impacted heavily on people with intellectual disabilities.

- There were many cases of healthcare being denied.
- People with intellectual disabilities died a higher rate than people without disabilities.



Neglect and discrimination. Multiplied [Inclusion Europe report on Covid impact](#)

How Covid-19 affected the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families

How to get easy to understand information about health care

Information and campaign kit for self-advocates

[available in many languages.](#)

Digital transition

Digital accessibility

Digital transition means when many things in our lives are being done on the internet.

For example when education or jobs are done online.

When things are done on the internet, it is important to make sure people have access to it.

- *Only 64% of persons with disabilities have an internet connection at home, compared to 88% of persons without disabilities.*

Accessibility of information and of digital services:

- There is no inclusion without [accessibility](#)
- How to make information [easy to read](#)
- [European Accessibility Act](#)
- EDF: [Web accessibility directive](#)

Read and subscribe: [Europe for us](#) easy-to-read magazine

Disability strategy

EU Disability Rights Strategy

In March 2021 the European Commission presented a strategy for the rights of people with disabilities.

The ten-year strategy sets out key initiatives around 3 main themes:

- **EU rights:** Persons with disabilities have the same right as other EU citizens to move to another country or to participate in political life.
- **Independent living and autonomy:** Persons with disabilities have the right to live independently and choose where and with whom they want to live.
- **Non-discrimination and equal opportunities:** The strategy aims to protect persons with disabilities from any form of discrimination and violence.

More about the strategy:

- [Easy-to-read version](#) by the European Commission
- Commission [factsheet](#)
- Inclusion Europe [briefing](#) (.pdf)

Read also: **Right to vote** and stand for election in the EU [overview](#) (.pdf)

Education

Why we care about education

Living in your own place. Having friends. Making your own choices.

Being good at something. Belonging.

We all share these ambitions.

School is where these ambitions begin to take shape.

It is where children learn to know what we think is important.

It is where children learn to do what prepares them for life and work.

It is where children learn to play and to be with others.

School is where the future of our children starts.

- “School is the manufactory of humanity,” Comenius said

We need schools where all students are together.

Because they learn to work and to be with one another.

To understand and respect various personalities and attitudes.

We need schools that are about relationships, and skills for life and work.

Because it is what students bring from school to their future.

They learn to find answers and solutions to everyday problems.

We need schools where teachers have the time and skills to support the special ways of learning each child can have.

Because one size does not fit all. It never did.

Read [Why we care about education](#) in full.

It is available in several languages.




- *Over 1 in 5 young people with disabilities leave school early, [compared](#) to 1 in 10 of those without disabilities*

How to improve job opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities

There are [guidelines for employers](#) and [videos](#) on employment



Ambition. Rights. Belonging.

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20 million people with intellectual disabilities and their families from 39 countries.



Co-funded by the European Union.

The European Union bears no responsibility for the contents of the report.