



Including persons with disabilities in EU development cooperation

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European Commission
DEVCO B3 – Migration, Employment, Inequalities

Key Facts:

- **Over 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide (15% of the population).**
- **Most live in developing countries.**
- **Rates of disability are increasing due to ageing, conflict, malnutrition, natural disasters, accidents, communicable and non-communicable diseases, etc**
- **Disability disproportionately affects vulnerable populations: women, poorer people, older people.**



Global Framework



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

- Concluded by the EU in January 2011
- Art. 32 "International Cooperation"
- Concluding Observations by the Committee (September 2015)



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- A disability-inclusive agenda -> Leaving no-one behind
- Disability included in Goals education, employment, inequalities, inclusive cities -> disaggregated data...



Main EU Policy Framework

Development policy

- For poverty eradication in a context of sustainable growth
- Area of "shared competence" between the EU and its Member States
- Together, the EU and its Member States are the world's largest aid donor

European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

- Priority 8: External Action
- Initial plan of action 2010-2015 -> Twin-track approach, accessibility, support to DPOs, etc

Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019





EU approach to disability in development cooperation

Adopt the social and human rights models of disability, with the objectives of:

- eliminating the barriers to enable the participation of persons with disabilities.
- promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights to persons with disabilities – based on the CRPD.

Apply a twin-track approach:

- including disability concerns in all programmes
- offering specific support to persons with disabilities





State of Play

I. Specific actions focusing on disability:

- **2010-14 EU funded >250 disability-specific projects in over 87 countries (> €105M).**
- **Main areas of action:** Capacity and policy development, promotion of Human Rights, social inclusion (eg employment, education, health), Community-based rehabilitation.
- **Sources of funding:** Mainly thematic budget lines (EIDHR, NSALA) and to a lesser extent geographic cooperation (DCI, EDF, ENPI)





Examples of specific actions:

Tanzania: The project “EmployAbility” for the promotion of the formal employment of persons with disabilities (€ 217 639, CCBRT)

Lebanon: “National Campaign for the Adoption of a Government Plan of Action for the Ratification of the CRPD and the Implementation of the Lebanese Law on Disability” (€ 160 000, National Association for the Rights of the Disabled People).

Africa (regional): "Communities of Practice in Disability Advocacy for Mainstreaming" to build the capacity of national/regional disability federations to advocate for disability mainstreaming in all sectors of government. Provides technical support to the AU and governments (€ 1,900,000 Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities)

Global: SOCIEUX –Social Protection EU Expertise -> short peer-to-peer TA from EU MS practitioners (eg support to the elaboration of the disability policy in Colombia)





State of Play

II. Mainstreaming disability in bilateral cooperation:

- Including persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and development strategies.
- An organisational challenge & an opportunity in the light of the CRPD.

Example:

Kyrgyzstan: Budget support to social protection → particular attention to social protection coverage of children with disabilities as well as supporting deinstitutionalization and the provision of alternative care or community based services.





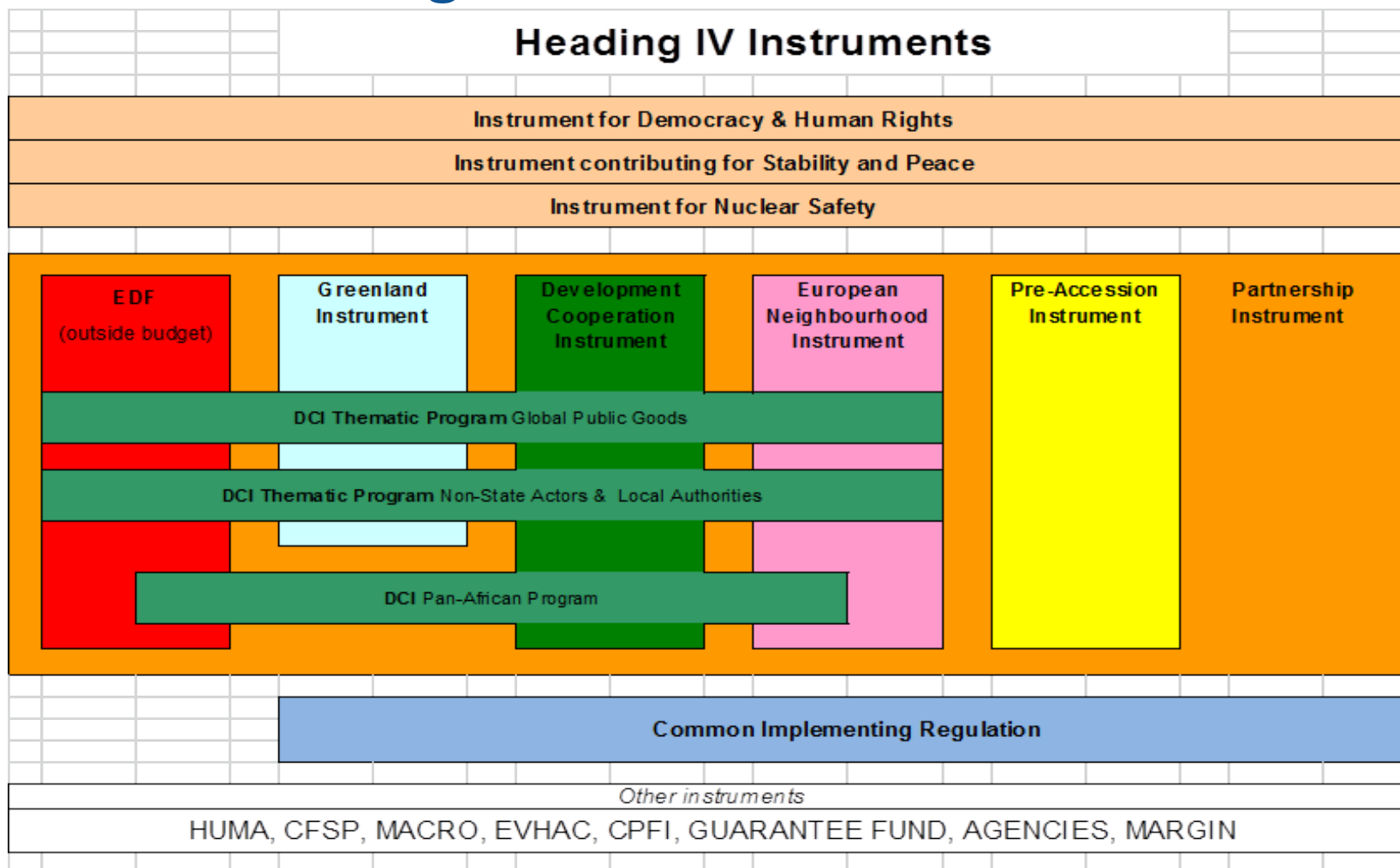
Measures taken to improve mainstreaming

- 2010 Study on disability and EC development cooperation
- 2012 Guidance note for EU staff
- Awareness raising & training sessions
- Network of contact persons & Capacity4Dev
- Progressive inclusion in EU processes and instruments: PRAG & Funding instruments.
- "Bridging the Gap" Initiative





Funding Instruments 2014-2020





Other external action measures...

Advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities

International Fora: eg. 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Human Rights Country Strategies: >140 CS endorsed by EU Political and Security Committee - taken into account in human rights and political dialogues

Human Rights Dialogues: > 30 with non-EU countries to discuss priority issues (may include combating discrimination on the grounds of disability and the signature, ratification and implementation of the CRPD; eg AU, ASEAN, Russia, PA, Tajikistan, Brazil).





Bridging the Gap

- DCI / Global Public Goods and Challenges (AAP 2015)
- Project proposal -> DCI Committee October 2015
- Total amount of EU contribution: € 7.1 M
- **Overall objective:** 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.





New EU initiative: Bridging the Gap

Component 1:

- Global level - > Elaboration of HR indicators for the CRPD, Guidance for implementing disability-inclusive SDGs
- Implementation modality: Grant to the OHCHR
- EU Contribution: € 1.5M (80% of total budget)

Component 2:

- Country level -> Strengthening national capacities in 5-6 countries to develop, implement and monitor disability-inclusive sector policies and services. Knowledge development and sharing component.
- Implementation modality: Grant to a partnership of EU MS
- EU Contribution: € 5.6 M (80% of total budget)





Thank you

For more information, join the Capacity4Dev Group
["Disability and Development Network"](#).

