

# International Conference

## Including Disability in Development Cooperation: Experiences of collaboration between Governments, NGOs and DPOs

November 18th, 2015

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

### Synthesis of the conference contents

The International Conference "*Including Disability in Development Cooperation: experiences of collaboration between governments, NGOs and DPOs*", held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015, was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Directorate General for Development Cooperation, in collaboration with the Italian Network Disability and Development (RIDS), within the development education project "Cooperate to include. The commitment of Italian Government on disability and development cooperation", managed by the NGO AIFO for RIDS. This project is intended to create an opportunity to exchange different experiences among the actors working in cooperation in the field of disability.

For several years, the Italian Cooperation has been particularly active in the field of disability. In June 2013 has been approved the Plan of Action on Disability and Cooperation, thanks to a long and constructive dialogue held by the working group MAECI-RIDS that extended the consultation to other leading representatives of civil society and other national institutions.

The Action Plan on Disability for Italian Cooperation is a tool to strengthen cooperation measures in inclusive sense, to lead actions in the field of disability with specific programs, promoting mainstreaming of other projects and launching awareness projects.

The Conference program was built to highlight the pillars of the action plan and to share experiences and strategies within inclusive development, in order to improve Italian, European and International commitment, consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and above all with articles 32, 11 and 4, that clarify the important role of civil society, and in particular organizations of persons with disabilities.

With these goals, the Conference pointed out 4 areas:

- 1- The Italian, European and international commitment on inclusive development.
- 2- The role of DPOs in inclusive development projects: empowerment and participation.
- 3- The inclusion of disability into emergency projects.
- 4- Monitoring tools for inclusive development.

To have more info on the Italian, European and international commitment on inclusive development (session 1), you can:

Free download these documents:

- Italian Development Cooperation Disability Action Plan
- Guidelines for accessibility of buildings financed by the DGDC
- Inclusive education for persons with disabilities and development cooperation

...from these websites:

- <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pDGCS/>
- <http://www.ridsnetwork.org>
- [www.aifo.it](http://www.aifo.it)

& visit these websites:

- <http://www.osservatoriodisabilita.it>
- <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/Disability>
- <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a0c310c6.html>
- [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/)

The European Union can:

- Approve an EU Development & Disability Action Plan
- Include the target of disability in the projects for Sustainable Development Goals
- Up-date the Guidance notes on Development and disability
- Provide that any project financed by EU guarantee the accessibility

To have more info on the role of DPOs in inclusive development projects: empowerment and participation (session 2), you can:

Free download these documents:

- Disability & Development: how to include persons with disabilities in development cooperation. [http://www.aifo.it/upl/cms/attach/20150927/073747175\\_5961.pdf](http://www.aifo.it/upl/cms/attach/20150927/073747175_5961.pdf)

& Visit these websites:

- <http://www.ridsnetwork.org>
- [www.aifo.it](http://www.aifo.it)
- <http://www.educaid.it>
- <http://www.dpitalia.org>
- <http://www.fishonlus.it>

- <http://www.edf-feph.org>
- <http://www.iddconsortium.net>
- <http://www.once.es/new/otras-webs/english/ONCEfundation>
- <http://www.abilis.fi>

The European Union can:

- Support projects for the empowerment and participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations
- Include the disability issues in the negotiation & monitoring of all bilateral agreements

To have more info on the inclusion of disability into emergency projects (session 3), you can:

Free download these documents:

- Humanitarian aid and disability VADEMECUM

& Visit these websites:

- <http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/>
- <http://www.ridsnetwork.org>
- <http://www.istituto-besta.com>
- <http://www.cbm.org/Inclusive-Emergency-Response-Unit-ERU--246775.php>

The European Union can:

- Implement rules to include persons with disabilities in the Humanitarian Aids projects

To have more info on monitoring tools for inclusive development (session 4), you can:

Free download these documents:

- Disability and Development Cooperation: The experience of the Italian Cooperation 2009-2014

& Visit these websites:

- <http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/>
- <http://www.ridsnetwork.org>
- <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en>

The European Union can:

- Monitor funds & projects on disability
- Support the proposal on a special OCSE-DAC marker on disability

Among international development organizations, RIDS is innovative, because of its composition. In fact, it connects two NGOs (AIFO and EducAid) with two Disabled People Organizations (DPI Italy

and FISH) that, on equal terms, apply the principle of full participation of persons with disabilities in all issues referring to them.

In the framework of the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the manifesto of RIDS highlights that the role of cooperation does change, promoting the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of development, including decision-making processes (see CRPD, Article 4, point 3).

The RIDS argues that the capacity building of organizations of people with disabilities permits sustainable processes of inclusive development and ensures the effective application of the Convention.