

Objective

This training session has been commissioned under the European Union's Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS 2007-2013).

This programme is managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and by the Directorate-General for Justice of the European Commission. It was established to provide financial support for the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS' mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitment. PROGRESS is instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

For more information see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

Contact email: JUST-D3-CFT@ec.europa.eu

Travel to Trier:

Shuttle services from Luxembourg airport to the ERA Conference Centre can be booked at special rates at: www.taxi-franken.de/era

Contents

The new European Disability Strategy sets out the European Commission's work plan and priorities for the period 2010-20. It will ensure access to EU funding, raise public awareness about disability and fulfil the EU's commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has entered into force for the European Union on 22 January 2011.


The Convention is an important tool for promoting the human rights of people with disabilities. The Convention elaborates and clarifies existing obligations, providing within a single text the accepted global legal standards on disability rights. It recognises that equality, dignity, autonomy, independence, accessibility and inclusion are key to ensuring that people with disabilities are able to enjoy the same human rights across the world. In doing so, certain paradigm shifts are introduced changing the status of people with disabilities in international human rights law.

The seminar will offer participants the opportunity to understand the key principles and concepts contained in the Convention.

Furthermore, the seminar will also analyse the European legislation adopted on disability issues in areas related to the application of the UNCRPD.

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EU DISABILITY LAW AND THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE
JUDICIARY
FOCUS ON CIVIL AND EMPLOYMENT
ISSUES

Trier, 24-25 January 2013

ERA Conference Centre
Metzer Allee 4, Trier, Germany

Organiser:

ERA (Killian O'Brien) with the support of the EFC European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability, and in cooperation with the European Commission (Contracting Authority)

Language: English & Spanish
(simultaneous interpretation)

Event number: 413DV91



Thursday, 24 January 2013

13:30 Arrival and registration of participants

14:00 **Welcome and opening remarks**

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNCRPD

14:15 **Introduction to the key aspects of the UNCRPD: development, purpose, general principles and key concepts**

15:00 Q&A

15:15 **Substantive obligations under the UNCRPD: education, health, participation, work and employment, standard of living, social protection**

- Focus on participation issues

16:00 Q&A and discussion

16:15 Coffee Break

16:45 **Workshop 1:** Exchange session and preliminary case studies (interactive exercise) on the scope and the applicability as well as key concepts of the UNCRPD (presenting short cases and carrying out group analysis)

17:30 Discussion of results

18:00 End of first seminar day

18:30 Guided tour to the city of Trier

20:00 Seminar dinner

Friday, 25 January 2013

II. EU DISABILITY LAW: FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

09:00 **Disability and employment: key concepts, existing provisions of EU anti-discrimination law and jurisprudence:** non-discrimination, direct and indirect discrimination, reasonable accommodation and the burden of proof in disability proceedings in EU law

09:45 Discussion

10:00 **The creation of a new legal framework? The implications of the UNCRPD for EU Disability Law:** the legal status of the UNCRPD, its role as an interpretation tool and the potential for direct effect

10:45 Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Disability and employment: novelties arising from the application of the UNCRPD**

12:15 Discussion

12:30 Preparations for a workshop: presenting the case and analysing the case dossier

13:00 Lunch

III. COMPLETING THE PICTURE

14:00 **The legal capacity of persons with disabilities in light of the UNCRPD**

14:45 Discussion

15:00 **Workshop 2:** Substantive application of selected UNCRPD provisions and EU law: practical case study in groups (analysing and discussing the case in working groups) (parallel language groups)

16:15 Summary and discussion of workshop results

16:30 Coffee

17:00 **Using the preliminary reference procedure in EU law to advance the ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are respected**

17:45 Discussion

18:00 Summing up and closing words

18:00 End of seminar

Programme may be subject to amendment.
For programme updates: www.era.int