# Subject: Winter 2016/2017 – News from the EU CRPD Framework

Dear all,

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some news regarding the recent and upcoming activities of the EU Framework to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRPD (EU CRPD Framework). This is the first of what will be a regular newsletter giving updates on the EU Framework’s activities.

We would be grateful if you could share this email with your networks. Should you have any comments, please do not hesitate to get back to us.

1. **EU Framework work programme**

The EU Framework has been implementing its [2015-2016 work programme](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/eu_crpd_framework_work_programme_2015-2016.pdf). A brief [review of activities](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/work-programme-eu-framework-2015-2016-review_en.docx) undertaken during this period is available on the EU Framework’s website.

Looking ahead, the members of the EU Framework have adopted a new [work programme for 2017-2018](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/work-programme-eu-framework-2017-2018_en.docx), which will guide the EU Framework’s activities over the next few years. We look forward to working together with you on many of these activities.

1. **EU Framework website**

The [EU Framework’s website](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/eu-crpd-framework/review-process) has been updated with information about the [EU’s review by the CRPD Committee](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/eu-crpd-framework/review-process).

We are very pleased that from early 2017, the website text will be available in all 23 official EU languages.

1. **Documents related to the EU Framework**

A wealth of [documents related to the EU Framework](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/eu-crpd-framework/resources) and its work are available on the Framework’s website. These include the agendas and minutes of the EU Framework’s meetings, the work programmes, as well as links to news from each of its members.

1. **News from EU Framework members**

European Parliament (EP)

* The CRPD Network discussed reporting requirements under para. 90 of the Concluding Observations of the CRPD Committee on the EU and the Commission proposal for a European Accessibility Act.
* In November 2016, the EP held the Inter-parliamentary conference *Non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in the EU enlargement region*, involving MEPs and MPs from EU Enlargement Countries, and a seminar on inclusive education for learners with disabilities.
* On 9 November 2016, the PETI Committee held a [Workshop on the rights of people with disabilities, as illustrated by petitions](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/events-workshops.html?id=20161025WKS00061), followed by a debate on disability-related petitions. Three studies were presented on: [the protection role of the Committee on Petitions](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/571384/IPOL_STU(2016)571384_EN.pdf), [The European Structural and Investment Funds and People with Disabilities](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/571386/IPOL_STU(2016)571386_EN.pdf), and the [Marrakesh Treaty](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/571387/IPOL_STU(2016)571387_EN.pdf).
* The conference *Multilingualism and equal rights in the EU: the role of sign languages* took place on 28 September 2016 with almost 1000 participants, the majority of them deaf. Interpretation into 31 EU sign languages, one non-European sign language and the EU’s 24 spoken languages was provided.
* In September 2016, PETI committee carried out a fact-finding visit to Slovakia to investigate the alleged misuse of structural funds as regards residential institutions for persons with disabilities, and commissioned an [accompanying study](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/571371/IPOL_IDA(2016)571371_EN.pdf).

European Ombudsman (see also the [Ombudsman website](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/home.faces))

In May 2016, the Ombudsman launched a strategic [inquiry](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/correspondence.faces/en/67190/html.bookmark) on whether the treatment of persons with disabilities under the Commission’s Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS) complies with the UN Convention. In October 2016, the Commission sent its [reply](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/correspondence.faces/en/72885/html.bookmark) to the questions raised by the Ombudsman. The inquiry is ongoing.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (see also information on [news](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/news) and [events](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/events))

* FRA’s [2016 Fundamental Rights Report](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-fundamental-rights-report-2016-2_en.pdf) contains a new regular chapter on developments in the implementation of the CRPD in the EU. The 2017 report will be published in June 2017.
* As part of its regular reporting on the refugee and migration crisis, FRA published an [Overview of the situation of migrants and refugees with disabilities in nine EU Member States](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/overviews/focus-disability)
* FRA published a [legal opinion concerning requirements under Article 33(2) of the CRPD within the EU context.](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-opinion-03-2016-crpd.pdf)
* All FRA’s publications on the rights of persons with disabilities are [available for download](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/publications).

European Disability Forum (EDF) (see also information on [news and events](http://www.edf-feph.org/default.asp))

* EDF undertook several actions to monitor the implementation of the CRPD:
  + Held a [civil society hearing](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34480) on 14 September 2016 to gather the views of stakeholders on the progress made so far and to prepare EDF’s alternative response on the three urgent recommendations to the EU.
  + Launched the first in a series of European Human Rights Reports. This [first issue focuses on the 10th anniversary of the CRPD](https://www.dropbox.com/s/s6a8c2rnfteop59/EDF-HRREPORT-%20accessible%20PDF.pdf?dl=0) giving an overview of the state of play and progress in CRPD implementation.
* EDF promoted the CRPD through campaigns, events and advocacy, such as its contribution to organising the Work Forum and [European Day of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/european-day-persons-disabilities-2016-crpd-implementation-cannot-be-business-usual) conferences.
* EDF works closely together with the EU institutions on the adoption of a strong and CRPD compliant European Accessibility Act. To find out more, please visit [our webpage](http://www.edf-feph.org/european-accessibility-act-2).
* EDF advocates for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the refugee and migration crisis. Please visit the dedicated [webpage](http://www.edf-feph.org/migration-refugees-disabilities).
* EDF contributes to the protection of the CRPD and advises persons with disabilities when they are discriminated against and transfers complaints to the EU institutions, the European Parliament Committee on Petitions, national DPOs and equality bodies.

With all good wishes for 2017,

EU CRPD Framework