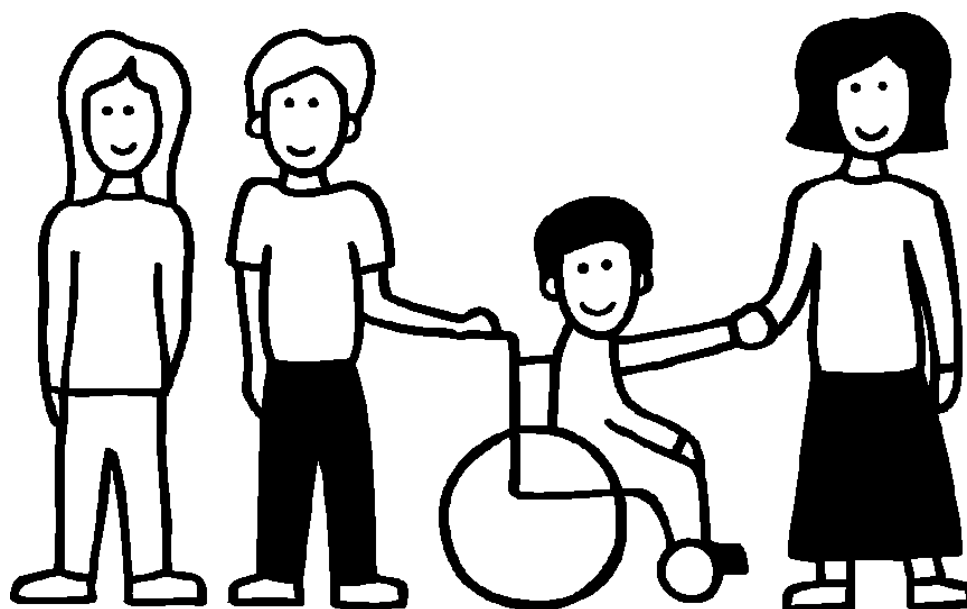




**Alternative report to the UN Committee
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

What we think needs to happen for people with disabilities in Europe



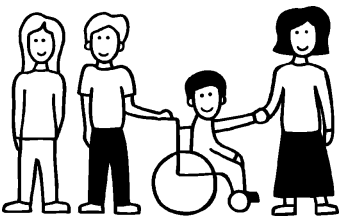
Who are we?



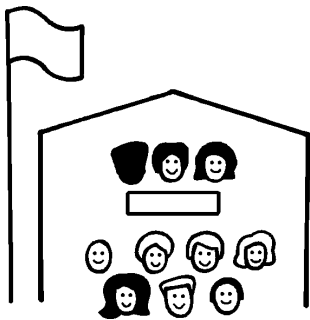
We are called the **European Disability Forum**.

We work to make sure the rights of people with disabilities in Europe happen.

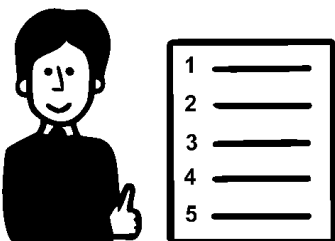
What is this report about?



This report is about the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.



There is a group of countries that work together called the **UN**.

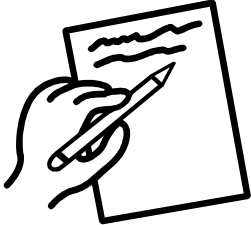


They made a document to make sure that the rights of people with disabilities happen.

The document is called the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

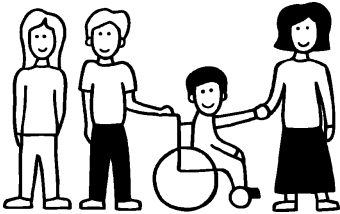


The **European Union** is a group of countries that work to make Europe better.



They agreed to do what this document says.

This means they agreed to make life better for people with disabilities in Europe.



They have to make sure the rights of people with disabilities really happen.

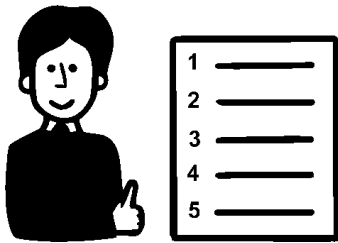


Now the European Union has to write a report about how they are getting on with this work.

We also wanted to write a report about how the European Union is getting on.



This is because there are still many problems for people with disabilities in Europe.

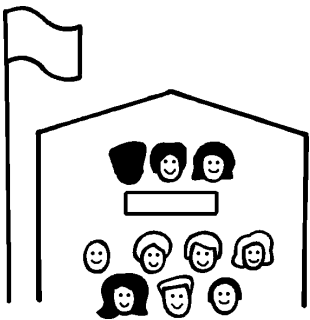


The European Union is doing some work.
But we think more needs to be done.

In this report you can find out:



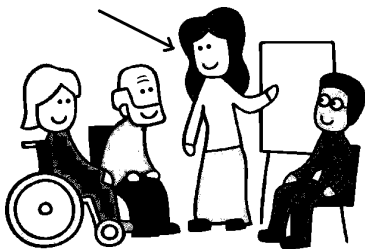
- what life is like for people with disabilities in Europe
- what we want the European Union to do to make their lives better



What will happen next?

This report and the European Union's report will be looked at by people from the UN.

The people from the UN will look at:



- how the European Union is doing to make life better for people with disabilities
- what the European Union still needs to do

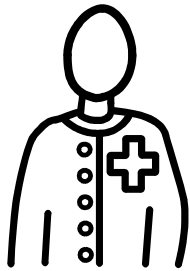
What is life like for people with disabilities in Europe?



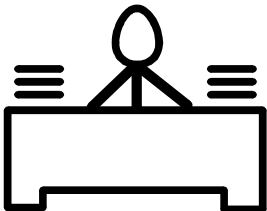
The report shows that there are still many problems for people with disabilities in Europe.

They are often treated badly.

People with disabilities can find it very hard to do things like:



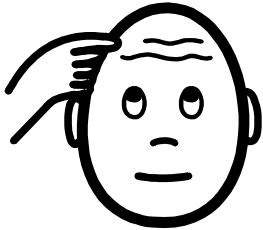
- travel around Europe
- get the right healthcare



- get a job
- have enough money and support
- take part in the same things as other people

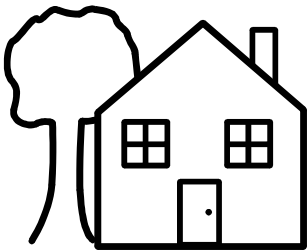


What we want the European Union to do



1. People making their own choices

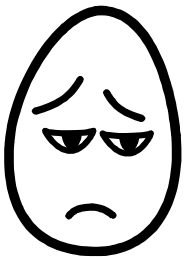
People with disabilities should be able to make their own choices.



For example, about things like:

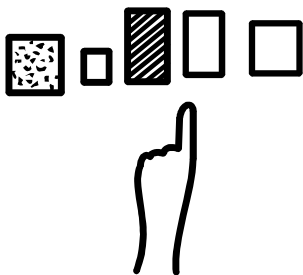
- where to live
- how to spend their money
- who to vote for

But this does not always happen.



Some people with disabilities are not allowed to make their own choices or do things on their own.

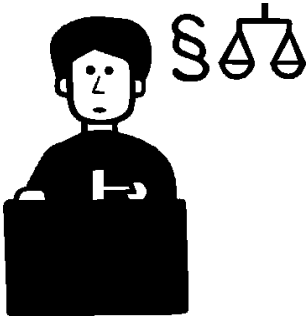
Other people make choices for them.



The European Union should help make sure that people with disabilities:

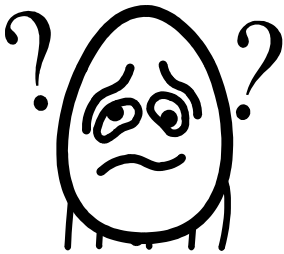
- are allowed to make their own choices
- get the right support to do this

2. Being treated fairly by the law



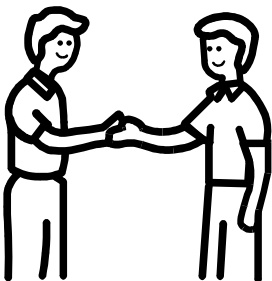
People with disabilities are often treated unfairly by the law.

The law is things like the police, courts and prisons.



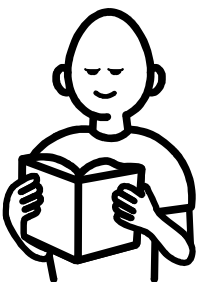
For example, people with disabilities may have a hard time because:

- people do not trust what they say
- the information they get is too hard for them



We want the European Union to make sure people with disabilities:

- get the right support from the police, courts and other people
- are treated fairly and listened to
- get easy information about what will happen

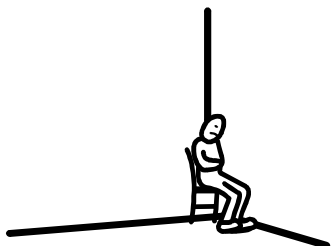


We also want good training for people with disabilities and staff to do this.

3. Being part of the community

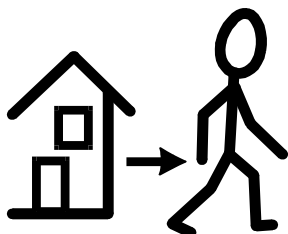


Some people with disabilities are put in homes far away from other people.

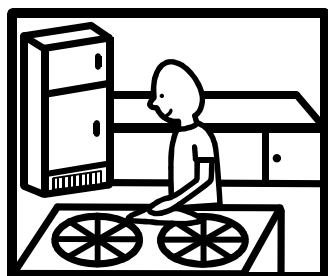


We want the European Union to make sure this does not happen.

We want the European Union to make sure:

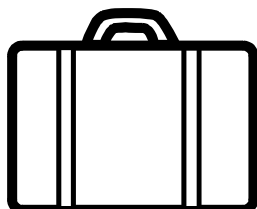


- people do not have to live in these homes



- people get the right support to live in their own homes in the community

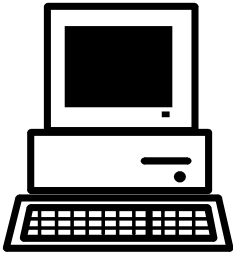
- there are rules to make sure people get good support



It is also important that people can move to another country in Europe and still get the right support.

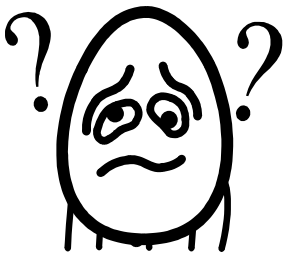
4. Making information and communication easier

There are lots of ways to get and share information.



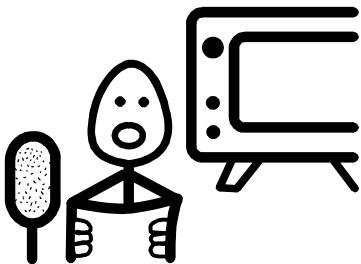
For example:

- TV
- internet
- phones



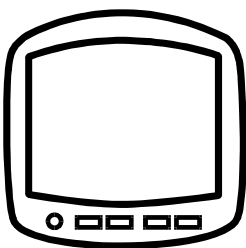
These things are often hard for people with disabilities to use.

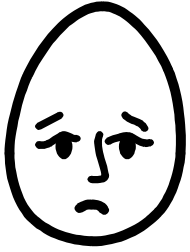
And people with disabilities do not always get the same choices as other people.



We want the European Union to make sure:

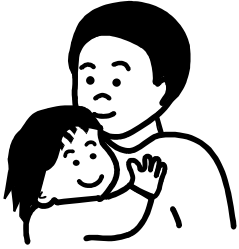
- public information is easy for people with disabilities to understand
- things like smartphones and TVs are accessible so that people with disabilities can also use them





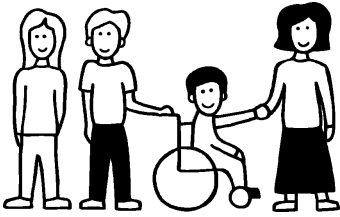
5. Home and family

Many people with disabilities are stopped from having children.



Parents with a disability are often treated unfairly.

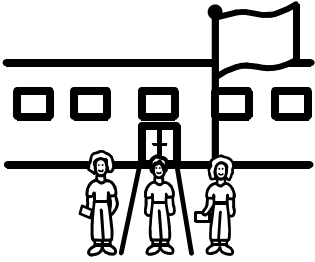
Families of children with a disability often do not get the right support.



We want the European Union to work to change this.

For example, by making better laws and rules so that everyone is treated fairly.

6. Education. This is things like schools, college and university

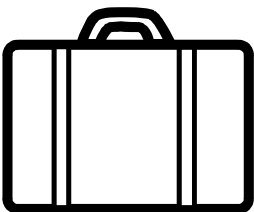


Students with disabilities can find it very hard to get the right support and do things that other students do.

We want the European Union to:



- help countries make education better and fairer for people with disabilities

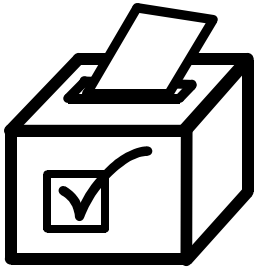


- make it easier for students with disabilities to study in other countries



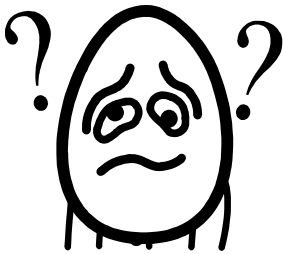
- get good information about what things are like for students with disabilities

7. Voting



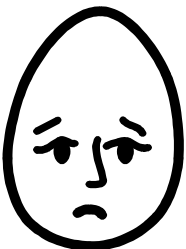
Sometimes people with disabilities are not allowed to vote.

Some people think they cannot make their own decisions.



It can also be very hard for people with disabilities to vote because of things like:

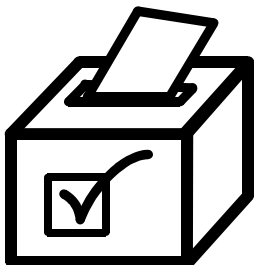
- information that is hard to understand
- voting places that are hard to use



It can also be hard for people with disabilities to have a say in other big decisions.

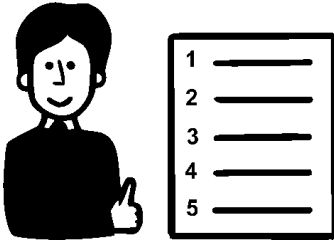
We want the European Union to change this.

For example, by:

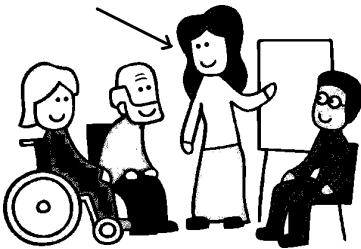


- making it easier to vote
- making sure people with disabilities are allowed to vote

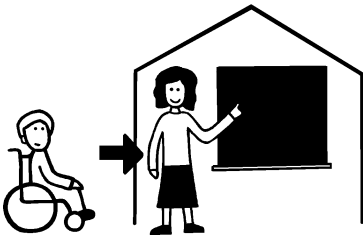
Some other things we want the European Union to do



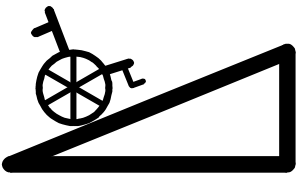
- Make sure all plans, laws and rules are right for people with disabilities.



- Make sure people with disabilities can say what they think about the European Union's work.



- Tell more people about the rights of people with disabilities and what they can do.



- Make sure everything is easy to use, like transport and buildings.



- Get good information about what life is like for people with disabilities in Europe.