



10 YEARS OF WORK TO MAINSTREAM DISABILITY WITHIN FOUNDATIONS WORK 2001-2011 Disability Interest Group (DIG) Work Programme 2010 - 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

The European Foundation Centre's (EFC) Disability Interest Group (DIG) was launched in 2001 under the Orpheus Programme. Led by Foundation ONCE its initial aim was to promote synergies between funders and served as a hub for knowledge exchange amongst EFC members working on disability issues, and more specifically, running projects on employment and training for people with disabilities.

Major past results of the group were the publication of the "**Funding for Vocational Training and Employment for People with Disabilities in Europe**" directory, and the associated "**Guidelines for Good Practice**", which described Broad Categories of guidelines for good grant making practice for independent funders in the area of vocational training and employment for people with disabilities

The group was also one of the promoters of the **Madrid Declaration** proclaimed by more than 600 participants from 34 different countries during the European Congress of People with Disabilities held in Madrid in March 2002 during the Spanish Presidency of the EU and of an EFC **Euro-briefing on Vocational Training and Employment** for People with Disabilities convening major European foundations and corporate funders.

Finally as the EFC has been a member of Social Economy Europe (SEE) and because the social economy employs the largest proportion of people with disabilities, the DIG promoted the creation of a group devoted to disability issues within SEE, which the DIG coordinates. The SEE's sub-group aims at raising awareness about disability amongst social economy actors as cooperatives, mutualities, etc.

The DIG is one of the oldest and most active of the EFC Interest Groups. A large portion of its resources and efforts have been focused in the last two years on responding to the approval of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2008. The **Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability** was launched in April 2009 to ensure a distinctive contribution from the Foundation sector in promoting the ratification and implementation of this ground-breaking UN Convention. Although selected activities like the SEE disability working group have kept running, the DIG's resources have mostly been taken up by the ambitious Consortium project.

The Consortium was initially launched for a two year period. Without a doubt it has become the flagship project of the DIG and given its success, it has become sustainable for the longer term. It is hoped that the UN Convention will soon be ratified by all countries in Europe. However, full and effective implementation of the UN Convention is a process, which will take several years to complete.

DIG activities have been re-launched by the EFC Secretariat in 2010. Amongst them, a second flagship project, the **League of Historical Accessible Cities**, was kicked off in February 2010, raising interest amongst Foundations beyond the Consortium members.. In this context, it has become necessary to clarify the DIG's current and future work programme.

The DIG is the platform for sharing and building knowledge on funding in the disability field and building capacity for foundations. Besides and extremely interconnected , the European Consortium aims at promoting the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention mentioned above.

This document outlines a proposed work programme for the Interest Group which aims to further consolidate the current activities and to look into opportunities and new actions and services that can be developed in the future. It follows the criteria for EFC Interest Groups as set out in the Interest Group Guidelines¹ adopted on March 2008 by the EFC Network Building Committee.

This draft work programme will be presented to the Consortium Members at their meeting in Dublin on the 25-26 November 2010. Comments and suggestions arising from this meeting will be taken into account and incorporated into a final version of the work programme for implementation in the next phase of the DIG, starting from 2011.

II. GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

5 main and interconnected core areas of activity have been identified for the group in its next phase of development:

- 1. Share and build knowledge on funding in the field of disability.**
- 2. Build capacity of foundations working on disability**
- 3. Mainstream disability within Foundations' work and programmes**
- 4. Provide strategic input to the European Disability policy agenda.**
- 5. Be an innovation incubator for Foundations developing pilot projects that can be scaled up or replicated**

1. Share and build knowledge

The DIG will continue to maintain and develop its tools for collecting information about foundation activity in the field of disability. It will also facilitate the information flow and disseminate acquired knowledge. It will also continue to be the hub of disability issues within the EFC. Activities will include:

- Maintenance and updates of DIG website
- Creation and dissemination of DIG Newsletter
- Collection of news items from DIG members to feed into EFC newsletter
- Further development of DIG Extranet and adaptation to member's needs and expectations

¹ see www.efc.be/Networking/InterestGroupsAndFora/Documents/200809_IG_GuidelinesFinal.pdf

- Development of thematic concept papers and recommendation papers on topics identified and selected by the DIG or EFC EU Affairs department.
- Provide information on disability issues to EFC members upon request.
- Collection of examples of foundation activity on issues identified by the DIG
- Dissemination of examples to relevant publications and media

2. Capacity building of foundations

The DIG will organise its meetings back to back with the Consortium Meetings, in the form of visits and focussed on selected topics which will be chosen by the Foundation hosting the meeting. These sessions will provide peer learning opportunities and take full advantage of the members' presence. Site visits will place emphasis on seeing what is happening with projects at the grassroots level, while the Consortium meetings themselves will focus on the European and Member States policy scene.

Other Ad Hoc Meetings will continue to be organised for specific projects of the DIG such as the SEE group or the League of Accessible Cities project.

A working group composed of a representative from the host organisation, the Steering Group and other interested DIG members will help set out the agenda for each meeting and provide advice on content and meeting material. This "planning" group will be supported by the EFC Secretariat.

The DIG meetings will incorporate innovative strategies for facilitation and interaction. A survey of participants will be conducted on a regular basis to identify and compile priority topics that foundations are working on.

3. Mainstreaming Disability within the Foundations work

The DIG wants to ensure the mainstreaming of the disability agenda within the work of Foundations, even for those EFC member foundations that are not working specifically in disability issues. For example, it will be essential to raise awareness about double discrimination for disabled women and children, the close link between disability and poverty, the difficult situation of people with disabilities in the developing countries, etc. In a nutshell, this work stream will focus on elevating disability as a cross-cutting issue.

4. Provide strategic input to the European integration Agenda

The DIG will continue to act as contact point with key external actors, bringing foundations to the table in matters relating to disability. The DIG will continue to identify opportunities for involvement in fora where it can bring value and report back to its membership and build strategic partnerships with relevant networks and stakeholders.

An important role of the DIG is to keep its members informed about EU policy developments and to situate its activities and that of its members within the broader European policy context, whilst the Consortium is more focused on the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention. The DIG will also proactively raise awareness about foundation activities and approaches to diversity, both among foundations and

external actors, such as the EU.

5. Incubator of projects

The DIG is an innovation incubator for Foundations developing pilot projects that can be scaled up or replicated, such as the League of Accessible Cities project.

III. PARTICIPATION RULES

DIG membership is open to EFC members interested or working in the field of disability in Europe. The Steering Group can agree to allow membership from non EFC-members where this provides an added value to the DIG and its activities. Non-members are then invited to participate in DIG meetings as experts or guests.

DIG members are entitled to:

- Access the DIG Extranet when finalised (password protected)
- Attend DIG meetings
- Receive newsletters
- Utilise the Secretariat communication tools (website and e-newsletter) to disseminate information and advertise events of the DIG group.
- Host DIG meetings
- Make queries to the Secretariat
- Submit proposals for joint activities
- Participate in collaborative activities and/or projects if appropriate
- Participate in DIG working groups of their interest
- Request assistance from DIG to organise/co-host specific meetings

Members can discontinue involvement in DIG at any time upon written communication to the Secretariat.

DIG members are encouraged to provide information about their activities through periodical surveys on selected themes.

Partnerships and external relationships

The DIG has a partnership with Social Economy Europe (SEE), and it will continue to work closely with other relevant EFC Interest Groups as well as with EU Institutions (DG Employment, DG Regio, European Economic and Social Committee, possibly DG Development, etc).

Through its specific projects the group has other relationships. The Consortium has cooperation agreements with associations of lawyers, notaries, judges and ombudsmen:

- Fundación Justicia del Mundo
- European Judges and Public Prosecutors for Democracy and Fundamental Rights
- European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education
- Council of the Notariats of the European Union

It is expected that an MoU will be signed with the European Disability Forum (EDF)

before the end of 2010. Also with the League of Accessible Cities the DIG has entered into a working relationship with the European Network of Accessible Tourism (ENAT). At present we are developing relationships with other organisations, such as Global Partnership for Disability Development (GPDD) from World Bank or Assembly of European Regions (AER).

IV. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Steering Group

The DIG Members elect a Chair and Steering Group (SG) of two to three members (including Chair) to:

- Act as an independent board guiding the work of the DIG, reviewing its progress, balance of activities and priorities
- Define and oversee the objectives of the DIG activities and get involved in planning of meetings where appropriate
- Promote and represent the DIG

The SG decides on the initiatives to launch in order to achieve the objectives set out in the work programme for 2010-2011. The SG may decide to set up working groups on thematic or operational issues. Organisations of meetings will be done in collaboration with a working group set up for this specific purpose and drawn from the DIG membership.

Members of the Steering Group are drawn from the membership of the DIG. It would be preferable if the composition of the SG reflected the variety (regional and other) of the members of the group.

2. Chair

The Chair is part of the DIG Steering Group.

The Chair is drawn from the membership of the DIG and is elected for two years, with the possibility of renewal. To ensure continuity, it is hoped that the Chair is someone with previous experience and/or has served in the DIG Steering Group.

3. Secretariat

The secretariat provides technical support for the organisation of meetings and implementation of work programme.

The secretariat assists the Chair in setting the SG meeting agendas and objectives.

The EFC will act as the secretariat of the SG and the DIG.

4. Modification of Steering Group Governance Rules

The above rules will be reviewed where appropriate, to ensure coherence with the governance policy and rules of EFC interest groups.

Modification of SG governance rules are decided by SG members.

Governance rules are modified by consensus.

V. FINANCE & BUDGET

DIG seeks contributions for the implementation of the work programme 2010-2011. The annual budget for implementation is included below.

Funding for specific activities such as in-depth research, conferences or projects, if such get approved by the group; will be raised on a project basis.

Annual Budget 2010 - DIG	
Expenses	Euros
Personnel	77.000
Meetings	
SEE	2.000
League of Accessible Historical Cities	3.000
Conference EECS with EDF	20.000
Conference with ERA	40.000
Submission of "Europe for Citizens" 2007-2013	3.000
High Level Seminar DG Regio -DG Empl	9.000
Marketing tools (brochure, video, banner)	3.000
DIG Meetings	3.000
Activities during AGA 2010	2.000
Study on the Challenges	60.000
Video for Cascais	5.000
Secretariat expenses	6.000
Consortium – Consultancy fees	15.000
Total Expenses	248.000
Income - 2010	
40.000 Euros from call for proposal	pending
Total Income	40.000 tbc

Review and Evaluation

A review of the activities of the DIG and of the secretariat will be undertaken no later than December 2011. The Steering Group will set objectives and milestones to measure the success of the implementation of this work programme.

ANNEX 1 – DIG Membership

DIG Members (As of November 2010)

Members

ONCE Foundation

Atlantic Philanthropies

Banca Monte di Lucca Foundation

Sabancı Foundation

Cassa Risparmio di Torino Foundation

Fondation de France

Gulbenkian Foundation

Realdania Foundation

Eugenio de Almeida