

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## Speakers

### For further information:

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Europäische Rechtsakademie  
Academy of European Law  
Académie de Droit Européen  
Accademia di Diritto Europeo



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

SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
JUDICIARY

**Trier, 23-24 April 2012**

ERA Conference Centre  
Metzer Allee 4, Trier, Germany

### Organiser:

ERA (Killian O'Brien and Daniel Gärtner), 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 & French  
(simultaneous interpretation)

**Event number:** 412DV02



## Monday, 23 April 2012

- 08:30 Arrival and registration of participants
- 09:00 **Welcome and opening remarks**
- I.** **INTRODUCTION TO THE UNCRPD AND ITS PLACE WITHIN THE EU LEGAL FRAMEWORK**  
*Chair: Killian O'Brien*
- 09:15 **Introduction to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: development, purpose and general principles**
- 10:00 Q&A
- 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:45 **Specific substantive obligations under the UNCRPD: education, health, participation, privacy and data protection, standard of living, social protection**
- 11:30 Q&A and discussion
- 11:45 **The implications of the UNCRPD for EU Disability Law: the creation of a new legal framework; the role of the CFR; the UNCRPD as an interpretation tool and its legal status under EU law – is there room for direct effect?**
- 12:30 Q&A and discussion
- 12:45 Lunch

**II.** **EU DISABILITY LAW**  
*Chair:*

- 14:00 **Non-discrimination, reasonable accommodation and the burden of proof in disability proceedings in EU law and beyond: definition, scope, interpretation and the impact of the UNCRPD**
- 14:45 Q&A and discussion
- 15:00 **Further considerations of accessibility outside the field of employment in light of the UNCRPD: concept, purpose, the social model of disability**
- 15:30 Coffee Break
- 16:00 **The reality of the UNCRPD and its (potential) impact in practice**
- 16:45 **Workshop: practical case study in groups**
- 17:45 **Results of the workshop**
- 18:00 End of first seminar day
- 18:30 Guided tour to the city of Trier
- 20:00 Seminar dinner

## Tuesday, 24 April 2012

- III.** **COMPLETING THE PICTURE: PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY**  
*Chair:*
- 09:00 **Legal capacity considerations for persons with disabilities in light of the UNCRPD**
- 09:45 Q&A and discussion
- 10:00 **Ensuring access to justice for persons with disabilities under the UNCRPD**
- 10:45 Q&A and discussion
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 **Using the preliminary reference procedure in EU law to advance the rights of persons with disabilities**
- 12:15 Q&A and discussion
- 12:30 Light lunch and end of seminar

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Programme may be subject to amendment.  
For programme updates: [www.era.int](http://www.era.int)