



Bridging the Gap – European commitment for the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Bridging the Gap is an initiative funded by the European Union (EU) under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Thematic Programme “Global Public Goods and Challenges”.

The action is a targeted thematic response to the requirement to make cooperation accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, which is an obligation for the EU and Member States as parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and which can have a significant impact in improving the social inclusion and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Bridging the Gap is also in line with the European Consensus on Development “Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future” which makes explicit reference to the commitment of “EU and its Member States [to] take into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities in their development cooperation”.

The initiative consists of two components: **“Bridging the Gap I: Human rights indicators for the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities in support of a disability-inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”** and **“Bridging the Gap II: Inclusive policies and services for equal rights of persons with disabilities”**. Both two components of the project will work in synergy aiming to contribute to the socio-economic inclusion, equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in low and middle-income countries through more inclusive and accountable institutions and policies.

Bridging the Gap-I

The component I works at global level and it aims to develop tools to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), namely, human rights indicators for the Convention, guidelines for policymakers on SDGs informed by the CRPD, guidelines on data sources to populate indicators, as well as training material on the use of these tools, including a free e-learning course. This first component involves wide consultations with experts, UN agencies, civil society and academia in the development of the different tools and includes five countries in particular to take part directly in the consultations and validation of the tools. These countries, one from each region, are: Paraguay, Ethiopia, Moldova, Nepal and Jordan, and the actors involved from each country include: the government disability focal point, national statistics office, national human rights institution and organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs). This first component is implemented by the Office of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and it seeks to establish baseline tools for all stakeholders involved in CRPD and SDGs implementation to ensure that all related actions serve to advance the human rights based approach and the rights, participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Bridging the Gap-II

The component II focuses on strengthening the capacities of governments, national human rights institutions and organisations of persons with disabilities in 5 partner countries (Ecuador, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Ethiopia) to develop, implement and monitor disability-inclusive sector policies and services in a participatory manner and in line with the CRPD. The project seeks to push forward a disability inclusive development agenda through awareness raising and knowledge and capacity enhancement of development partners and of the civil society, in the spirit of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Cross-cutting issues such as the overall respect of the human rights, universal accessibility, gender and social sustainable development will be also targeted by the project.

Bridging the Gap II is implemented by a consortium led by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) and composed by the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

Launch Event Bridging the Gap

The project “Bridging the Gap – Inclusive Public Policies and Services for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities” will be officially launched on 5th December in Brussels, through a high-level seminar introduced by the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica.

The event is the ideal moment to gather around the same table experts, decision-makers, representatives and actors of the civil society to discuss about the contribution the EU and the BtG project initiative can bring to the current momentum for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development, turning political commitments into concrete actions.

To attend this event, please register at: <https://form.jotformeu.com/73052034527348>

Additional information:

- [Agenda available to download](#)