

Just4All



Access to Justice of Persons with Disabilities: the way forward and practical tools

EXPERIENCE OF THE ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN LAW (ERA)

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About ERA



- A public non-profit foundation based in Trier (Germany) established in 1992 at the initiative of the European Parliament with the primary aim of providing professional training to legal practitioners (judges, prosecutors, lawyers etc.) accross Europe on European Union law.
- Financially supported by the EU.
- All EU Members States are ERA Patrons.
- More than 150 face-to-face training events per year. E-learning platform.
- ERA Forum



The UNCRPD trainings

- Trainings for legal and policy practitioners since 2011
- Past EU funded project 2016-2019: contracts no. VC/2015/0815, VC/2016/0691, VC/2017/0636 and VC/2018/0598
- REC Programme (2014-2020)
- In cooperation with EDF and EFC
- Consistent support of the CRPD Committee, OHCHR and EJTN (incl. the judicial training institutes who compose the network)
- Involvement of disability law experts and NGOs advocating/litigating the rights of persons with disabilities
- Accessibility



Methodology of the trainings

6 seminars per year: 2 for legal practitioners, 2 for the members of the judiciary and 2 for policy practitioners

30-40 participants per event

Selection criteria

Interactive presentations and workshops/case studies

Different language formats:

- English as the first seminar language
- German, French, International Sign language/captioning at least once per year
- Other languages covered: Spanish, Italian, Czech, Polish, Bulgarian

One live streamed event per year



UNCRPD trainings

854 persons trained face-to-face in 2016-2019 from all EU Member States among which:

- 210 judges
- 31 prosecutors
- 28 judicial staff
- 127 lawyers in private practice

84 persons with disabilities and 136 trainers (of the overall number of participants)

Number of documents produced: 182 presentations, 25 workshop materials, 51 case studies and 27 e-presentations.



Ensuring sustainability of the project



Partner
Logo

- Online library: <http://www.era-comm.eu/UNCRPD/library.html>
- E-presentations: <http://www.era-comm.eu/UNCRPD/index.html>
- Freely available speakers' contributions
- Training of trainers
- Spreading information about the training tools among EJTN members



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What brings success to the trainings?

- Involving persons with disabilities as speakers and participants
- Having speakers who apply disability law in their daily practice
- Judges prefer to be trained by judges
- Interactive exercises
- Networking and discussion
- Live streaming
- Interpretation and captioning



Training gaps

- UNCRPD key principles – the human rights model
- The legal effects of the UNCRPD in EU law and its applicability in domestic proceedings
- Legal capacity and supported decision-making
- Barriers in national legislation
- Best practices



ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2020



Focus on access to justice

Online, 21-23 October 2020



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Thank you for your attention!

