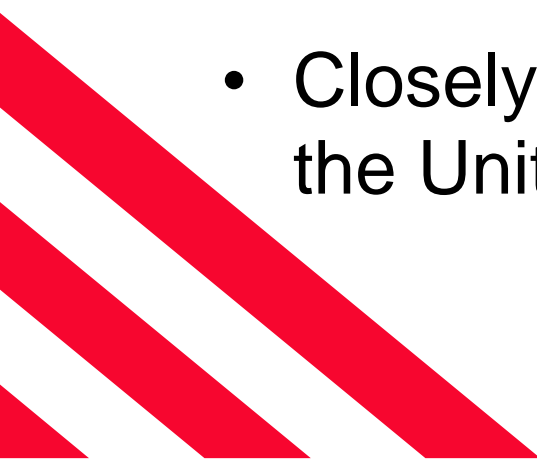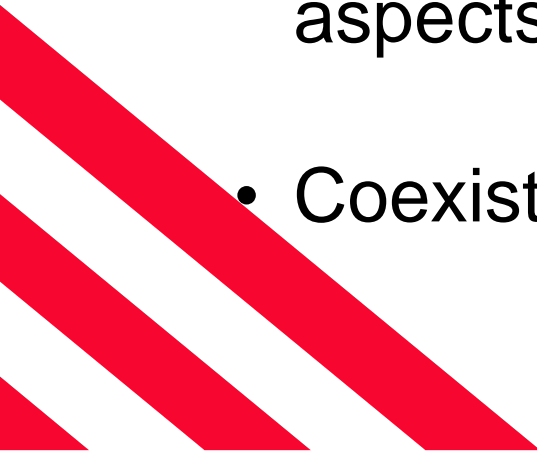# How the European Union supports accessibility in Member States?

Daniel Casas, EDF Accessibility Officer

About the European Disability Forum

- Advocacy umbrella organisation (100 members)

- 100 million Europeans with disabilities in Europe (15% EU population)

- Organisation **of** persons with disabilities, **run by** persons with disabilities

- Full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UN CRPD)

- Closely work with the European Union, the Council of Europe   and the United Nations

Introduction

- Accessibility as a precondition to live independently and fully participate in society.

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) creates a legal obligation for the European Union (EU) and Member States (MS) to promote accessibility and universal design.

- The EU, through its budget and competencies, can be an important actor shaping and pushing for the consideration of accessibility in relevant aspects of life.

- Coexistence between MS and EU

EU Context I (Legislation)

ICT and Transport legislation:

- Web Accessibility Directive
- Audiovisual Media Services Directive
- Electronic Communications Code
- TEN-T Regulation
- Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI – PRM)
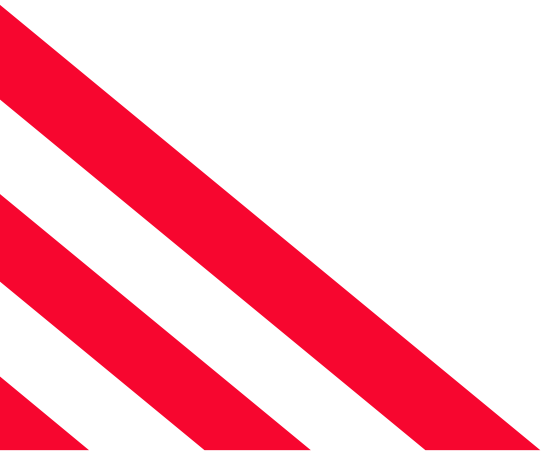- Passenger Rights Legislative Framework

Key milestone:

- European Accessibility Act

EU Context II (Budget and Public Procurement)

- Investment capacity (Cohesion or Regional Funds, to name a few)

Relevant legislation:

- Common Provisions Regulation (Recital 6 and Articles 9 and 73)
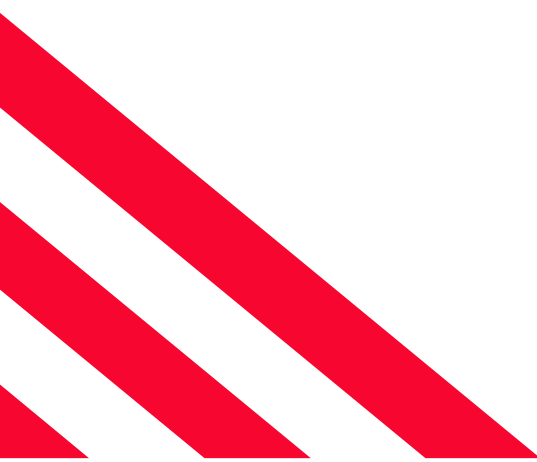- Directive on Public Procurement

EU Context III (Standards)

- ICT Products and Services (EN 301 549)

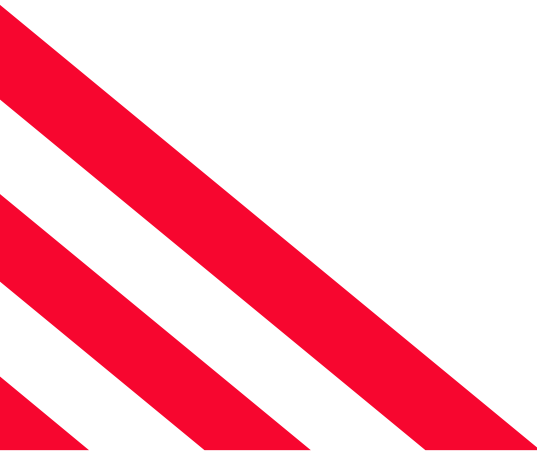- Design For All (EN 17161)

- Built Environment (EN 17210)

In order to implement the EAA, three new standards will be developed:

- Accessibility for non-ICT products

- Accessibility of support services related to products and services

- Accessibility of Emergency Communications
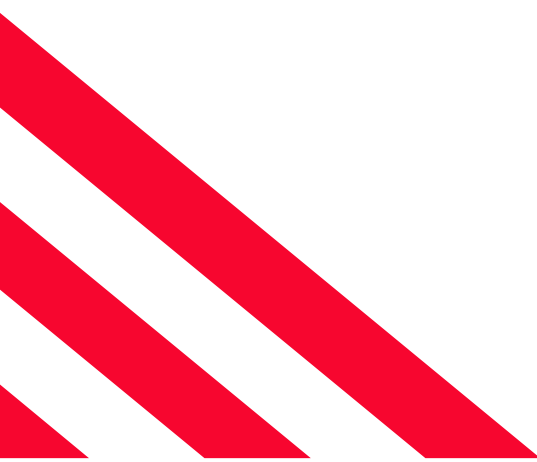
EU Context IV (Accessible EU Centre)

- Flagship initiative of the European Disability Strategy 2021-2030

- Result of EDF proposal to create a new EU Agency

- EU Funded project with a limited duration in time

- Service to the Commission to enable practical implementation of EU legislation, connect stakeholders, one-stop-shop for knowledge.

- No regulatory powers.

EU Accessibility Challenges

- Accessibility is a transversal issue, not a sectorial one.

- Limited scope of important accessibility related legislation.

- EU legislation differently applied in Member States.

- Difficult enforcement of legislation

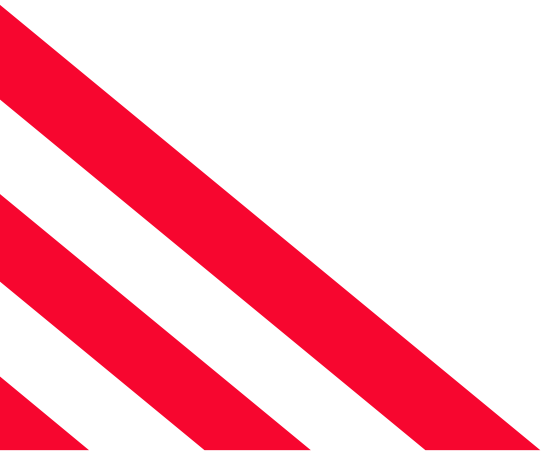- Difficult implementation of EU funds

Conclusion

- Legal obligations and tools to ensure accessibility already exist.

- Lack of political will.

- Need to see accessibility as investment rather than a cost.

- Benefits for everyone.

Question?

THANK YOU

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For more information please contact EDF Secretariat:
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