

IDDC welcomes the EU's Communication on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation



On 21 August 2012 the European Commission published the [Communication on Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation](#). This communication contains clear references to disability. IDDC welcomes the EU's support to national policies and programmes in the creation of job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

In brief

In 2011 the [European Commission](#) launched a consultation process in view of adopting a Communication on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation in 2012. This included consulting with a wide range of stakeholders, ranging from international organisations, civil society organisations, and partner countries.

The Communication supports a future policy on inclusive development to ensure human development, greater health care services and education: "inclusive growth characterised by people's ability to participate in and benefit from wealth and job creation".

What about disability?

IDDC welcomes the proposal of the Commission. In times of economic crisis - where fuel and food prices keep boosting and important political commitments are discussed worldwide - social protection has more than ever a key role to play. This is especially true for excluded or marginalised groups, such as people with disabilities - one billion people worldwide - who are not able to escape from poverty or live just above the poverty line.

The Communication includes clear references to disability as well as a great emphasis on equity and social inclusion which are key elements for a sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

In particular, IDDC welcomes the [EU's](#) commitment to support national programmes in the creation of job opportunities for marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities. This allows for a shift from a medical approach, to disability based on basic income security, to a model of social inclusion where people with disabilities can participate in and actively contribute to national economies. The Communication is a step forward in the field of social protection in EU development cooperation.

What's next?

IDDC has actively participated in the consultation process and, together with other civil society organisations and networks, has advocated for the EU's commitment to social protection in its development cooperation.

Thanks to its members, IDDC has raised awareness about inclusive social protection and supported EU institutions in ensuring an inclusive approach to disability. Moreover, in cooperation with its members IDDC has strongly advocated for a Communication that takes into consideration the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, in line with Article 28 of the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD).

Although the Communication includes good references to disability, more needs to be done to mainstream disability in social protection schemes in countries where social protection measures barely exist. This would include the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the design of social protection schemes, such as in the Social Protection Floors Initiative of the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)).

Disability should be specifically addressed when designing national policies and programmes in areas such as education, health care, transport, and labour market. This is crucial to create greater health care services, high quality education, and to boost "an inclusive and sustainable growth".