



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UFM REGIONAL PLATFORM ON DISABILITY

First situational assessment of the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Euro-Med region

Consultation webinar

June 5th, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm CET

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdOuqqjlqGtWOfRP1TN5llW7jD674rzKc>

Background information

Following the results of the [1st Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the Socio-Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#) (Barcelona, January 2022), the [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#) launched a process for the definition of a future Euro-Mediterranean platform for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the main goal of promoting a regional Disability Agenda. The initiative is conducted in collaboration with the ONCE Social Group from Spain.

UfM's Policy dimension is structured around regional dialogue platforms involving not only representatives from governmental institutions and experts, but also regional and international organizations, local authorities, civil society, private sector, and financial institutions.

This close interaction between national experts and stakeholders is a fundamental tool to exchange on the ministerial mandates, better understand the needs, share experiences, identify best practices and promote concrete projects of cooperation.

In order to set the preconditions for the UfM Disability platform, the UfM requested a preliminary and partial situational assessment of the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in the [Euro-Mediterranean region](#). The assessment will identify the current status of social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, the obstacles to full and meaningful inclusion in society, and the opportunities available for achieving the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD, or CRPD).

The assessment will be conducted mixing desk research and consultation methods, and the results will be presented at the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the Socio-Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the Union for the Mediterranean, in cooperation with Social Group ONCE and League of Arab States, in the 4th quarter of 2023 (Q4 2023).

The UfM operates in strict collaboration of the Social Group ONCE, in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote disability rights in the work of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Objectives of the webinar

The webinar is addressed at representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities from members of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

The consultation is aimed at:



- Present the process for the definition of the UfM Platform.
- Present the preliminary results of the desk research on the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Mediterranean.
- Collect feedback and inputs on the desk research
- Capture of persons with disabilities' priorities on topics for the analysis and the platform
- Capture recommendations of the disability movement on the type of platform they want.

Expected takeaways

1. A **matrix** to capture issues by constituency,
2. Additional **inputs on existing data sources and information**, such as:
 - a. Shadow reports
 - b. Independent resources
 - c. Surveys on socio-economic inclusion, OPD participation, etc.
 - d. Assessments, evaluations, etc.
 - e. Other regional or national thematic sources
3. **Rapid map** of gaps using the matrix (e.g. which groups, areas, and/ or topics are not or insufficiently covered).
4. **Map of relevant Mediterranean actors.**

Additional information

Participants: OPD representatives from different AOPD and EDF constituencies from the Mediterranean countries.

Organizers and facilitators: UfM, with co-organization from the consultant and ONCE

Duration: 2 hours.

Accessibility: captioning in English, international sign, and Arabic sign

Tentative annotated agenda

Introduction by UfM and ONCE: setting up the stage, explaining the process and state of the art, benchmarking (approx. 15 mins)

Preliminary results: The consultant presents the preliminary results of the desk research (10 mins)

First round of questions/ exchange with the participants (approx. 25 mins.)

Break (10 mins)

Deepening the discussion: discussion of 60 mins on the following topics:

- **What are the thematic priorities to be addressed at the Mediterranean level to foster disability inclusion? What issues must be addressed first?**
- **What type of platform does the Mediterranean disability movement need and for what purpose?** (to influence what? With what type of information (e.g. prevalence, data on situation, case studies on how to include, etc.)
- **How can cross-basin civil society cooperation be promoted and enhanced?**
- **Are there national or local good practices that can be replicated and/or reinforced at the regional level?**

Conclusions and next steps (10 minutes)