

ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DISABILITY IN TURKEY

I'd like to present state of play on the policy developments in disability in Turkey. First of all, I'd like to highlight that the following policy developments are carried out in line with the provisions of the UN CRPD, Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006 - 2015 and European Union Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020:

- It is planned to start the preparation for Turkish Disability Strategy 2017-2023 in the following months. Within the scope of preparatory activities, a series of meetings are planned to be organised with relevant partner organisations including the line ministries, DPOs and civil society organisations.
- Turkey Equality and Human Rights Institution was established through a law in April 2016 as a financially and administratively independent inspection mechanism. The main duty of the institution covers protecting and promoting human rights of all individuals including persons with disabilities.
- With the purpose of supporting the monitoring and implementation processes of the Convention in Turkey, a project has been carried out in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) between 2013 and 2016. The Project activities include raising children and young people' awareness of disability. With this aim, short animated films and story books are about to launch in order to highlight that persons with disabilities can lead an independent life and thus live in the society just as the others do.
- Finally, we are currently arranging capacity building seminars for civil society organisations to promote rights of persons with disabilities at regional level. In this respect, 20 seminars were organised between 2014 and 2015. Further regional meetings will be arranged by the end of the year.