

**Title of Presentation:**

***"Social rights of persons with disabilities in the context of the European Social Charter: challenges in implementation and convergence with the CRPD"***

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The presentation undertakes a critical analysis of the European Social Charter's (ESC) contribution towards the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities' social rights within the European context, and especially Article 15 of the Revised Charter. While the ESC enshrines the right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration, and participation in community life, its practical implementation by State Parties remains marked by normative gaps, institutional shortcomings, and persistent inequalities.

Drawing on recent case law of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), the presentation summarizes the key areas where States have not fully reached the rights embodied in Article 15 — i.e., access to employment, inclusive education, support services, and independent living. The analysis also provides a comparative view of the commitments generated by the ESC and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provisions, with points of intersection and areas for potential cross-support between the two instruments.

This contribution aims to contribute to broader reflection on the future of the European Social Charter by discussing the following central themes: (1) the potential of the ESC to supplement the CRPD in shaping inclusive public policies; (2) the need to strengthen the monitoring and technical assistance mechanisms offered by the Council of Europe to States facing implementation challenges; and (3) the need to implement an intersectional approach recognizing the intersecting nature of disability and other forms of social vulnerability.

The presentation thus seeks to provide an academic contribution centered on the social rights of people with disabilities, in line with the Chişinău 2026 High-Level Conference strategic objectives—particularly those for the ESC system consolidation and promoting more efficient and more equitable practices across Europe.