



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

List of issues in relation to the initial report of Croatia*

A. Purpose and general obligations (arts. 1–4)

Purpose (art. 1)

1. Please provide updates on the specific progress made under the National Strategy of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2007–2015 (para. 2).

General obligations (art. 4)

2. Please provide information on the development of programmes to promote the rights of persons with disabilities among the Roma people, specifically women, girls and boys with disabilities.

3. Please give further information on plans to promote and ensure the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Convention through appropriate legislation and policies.

4. Please explain why the word “inclusion” was translated as “integration” when referring to “assistance in including a child or young adult with physical or mental impairments in programmes of regular preschool or school institutions” (para. 104 (b)). Please inform the Committee as to whether civil society was involved in the translation process.

B. Specific rights

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

5. Please give updated statistics, disaggregated by sex, on the number of cases brought by persons with disabilities alleging discrimination in employment; in the provision of accommodation; and in the provision of goods and services. Please comment on the outcome of the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2008–2011 in relation to accessibility and universal design.

* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group at its second session (7–10 October 2014).



Women with disabilities (art. 6)

6. Please provide information on the efforts undertaken to combat the gender inequality experienced in all areas of life by women and girls with disabilities, which, according to the report, arises from “common traditional attitudes ... towards blind women and persons with disabilities”.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

7. Please provide information on the measures to address the increasing number of children in institutional care and the insufficient alternative family- and community-based care options for children with disabilities deprived of a family environment (CRC/C/HRV/CO/3-4, paras. 42 and 43).

8. Please provide information on national programmes providing support for children with disabilities, thereby ensuring their participation in decisions affecting their lives.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

9. Please provide information on the measures taken by the mass media to bring reporting of persons with disabilities into line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention.

Accessibility (art. 9)

10. Please clarify to what extent the initiatives to ensure accessibility of public transportation also cover areas outside of Zagreb.

11. What monitoring, compliance and sanction mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public at all levels?

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

12. Please provide information regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities in evacuation plans for emergencies.

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

13. Please provide updated information on the planned legal reforms, including in the area of family legislation and mental health, and other initiatives, with a view to replacing guardianship with supported decision-making regimes, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention, as set out in the Committee’s general comment No. 1 (2014) on article 12: equal recognition before the law.

Access to justice (art. 13)

14. Please inform the Committee of the measures to implement the Law on Misdemeanours (2007) to ensure that persons with disabilities who are charged with offences are given reasonable accommodation, including appropriate interpreter assistance in court.

15. Please provide information on action being taken in relation to training judges and other professionals in the judicial system on the implementation of the Convention.

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

16. Please update the Committee on the measures to address the fact that there are “no appropriate conditions for accommodation and imprisonment or custody and investigation custody for persons with disabilities that need wheelchairs for movement” (para. 74).

17. Please comment on the fact that the report appears to indicate that persons with disabilities may be confined without their consent under the Law on Protection of Persons with Mental Difficulties.

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

18. Please provide further information on the circumstances where guardians of persons with disabilities may authorize medical intervention without the consent of the person, under the Law on Protection of Patients’ Rights of 2004. Is the State party intending to end that practice?

19. Please provide information on the specific measures taken to prevent treatment without consent, seclusion and the use of chemical and physical restraints for persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual impairments.

Freedom from violence and abuse (art. 16)

20. Please provide information, including statistical data, on the number of persons with disabilities, especially women, boys and girls, who have experienced violence and who have received support from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Family, Veterans’ Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity.

21. Please provide information regarding monitoring mechanisms, as referred to in article 16, paragraph 3.

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

22. Please provide updated information on the availability of personal assistant services, as referred to in article 19 of the Convention.

23. Please provide an update on the National Plan for Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Welfare Institutions 2011–2018. Please explain whether private institutions, psychiatric hospitals with long-term residents, “family homes” and foster homes where adults are placed without their consent are part of the deinstitutionalization process and give details of the Government’s plans to provide more community-based living choices for persons with disabilities, in line with article 19.

Freedom of expression and opinion, access to information (art. 21)

24. Is information for the general public accessible to persons with disabilities, i.e. sign language, easy read, Braille, audio, and augmentative and alternative communication?

25. Please inform the Committee as to whether any legal regulation of Croatian sign language has been adopted recognizing it as an official language.

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

26. Please give details on effective and appropriate measures being taken to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships.

Education (art. 24)

27. In its concluding observations (CRC/C/HRV/CO/3-4, para. 42) the Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that inclusive education was unevenly developed by the State party, particularly in rural areas. Please provide updated information on measures to implement inclusive education in all geographic locations.

Health (art. 25)

28. Please give details on the measures being taken by the State party to improve access to health facilities and services for persons with disabilities, including access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls with disabilities. Please clarify how persons with disabilities who are not insured under the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance can access health care services.

29. Please indicate measures adopted to ensure access to mainstream health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and maternal and child health centres, in particular in rural and remote areas, on an equal basis with others.

Work and employment (art. 27)

30. What is being done to encourage employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market?

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

31. Please inform the Committee on how the impact of the financial crisis and austerity measures on persons with disabilities has been addressed.

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

32. Please give details on the measures taken to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial impairments, can exercise their right to vote.

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

33. Please indicate any measures taken for the expeditious signing and ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

34. Please provide information on any plans to increase the accessibility of libraries to all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial impairments.

C. Special obligations

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

35. Please provide updated information, disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and ethnic origin, on the number of persons with disabilities and the percentage of the total population of Croatia they constitute, in accordance with data collected in the course of the 2011 census.

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

36. Please update the Committee on measures taken regarding the appointment of focal points and the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism. Include information

on whether measures to ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations can fully participate in the monitoring and implementation of the Convention have been undertaken.
