European Disability Forum

- Umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities (100 members)
- Defend rights of over 100 million persons with disabilities in Europe (+60 million are women)
- EDF and women’s rights
  - Women’s Committee
  - Member of the European Women’s Lobby
Women with disabilities and poverty

Women with disabilities at **higher risk of poverty** than men with disabilities and women without disabilities

→ **29.5%** of women with disabilities in the EU are at risk of poverty and social exclusion (compared to 27.5% of men with disabilities) - EU-SILC 2018
Causes of poverty – increased by COVID-19

• Barriers in access to education
• Unemployment
• Pay gap and lower financial resources
• Extra disability related costs
• Discrimination by association (e.g. mother of a child with disabilities)
Employment

• only 48.3% of women with disabilities are in employment in the EU, compared with 53.3% of men with disabilities (EU-SILC 2017)

• only 20.7% of women with disabilities are in full time employment, compared to 28.6% of men with disabilities (Gender Equality Index 2019) – greatest employment disparities in Greece, Malta and Ireland
Pay gap / financial resources
(based on Mean equivalised net income (PPS) Gender Equality Index 2019)

- Women with disabilities have the lowest financial resources (16.380 EUR/year) comparing to men with disabilities (17.275 EUR/year) and women without disabilities (19.572 EUR/year)
- Lowest mean equivalised net income of women with disabilities is in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary
Extra disability related costs

• Additional costs of access to goods and services faced by persons with disabilities in the EU combined comes to **between 15€ and 41€ billion per year** (2018 report of European Parliament Research Service)

• Example: Special Report by the Spanish National Disability Observatory- main expenses tend to be medical treatment (29% of expenses), medicine (28.3%), technical aids (28%), transport and mobility (24.3%) and personal assistance (21.6%).
Extra disability related costs

Estimated average additional cost of living for a person with a disability, based on ability to make ends meet (thousand € per year)
Discrimination by association

Example: Poverty faced by mothers of children with disabilities due unequal access to employment, extra disability related costs...

• Children with disabilities are more likely to live in a single parent household than other children (EIGE report Gender equality and long-term care at home) – often being with their mother (Women make up almost 85 % of all single-parent households in the EU (EIGE, 2016))
Recommendations for Equality Bodies

• Address causes of poverty coming from discrimination: e.g. equality in accessing inclusive education, employment and pay equality

• Address the impact of poverty on women with disabilities: e.g. equal access to housing and accessibility- homelessness as a consequence of poverty

• Disability AND gender perspective
Thank you for your attention

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