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# European Research Agendas for Disability Equality (EuRADE)



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## About the project

- Project funded by the European Commission (FP7)
- ‘Science in Society’ programme
- ‘Capacity building activities for civil society organisations...  
...and development of cooperative research activities’
- Three partners:
  - European Disability Forum
  - University of Leeds
  - Maastricht University
- February 2008 – August 2009 (18 months)



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## Aims and focus

1. Identify and communicate the research priorities of disabled people's organisations in European civil society
2. Develop knowledge in civil society about research and in European countries
3. Initiate new research collaborations with European research teams within available funding opportunities



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## Activities

- review current themes (EDF, DPI, EC, UN Convention, etc.)
- consult EDF members (questionnaire)
- disseminate priorities (civil society, researchers, policy makers)
- research summer school (civil society and researchers)
- observation at research conferences ('researching the researchers')
- online training (research methods and knowledge)
- identification of funding opportunities (FP7 and others)
- initiation of research funding collaborations (matching and meeting)



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## The Survey Design

- Framed by EDF priorities and policy document reviews
- Online questionnaire (English and French, online and paper)
- Presented at EDF Annual General Assembly (Slovenia, May 2008)
- Information, research experiences, priorities, motivation
- Responses from 68 organisations in 25 countries
- ...in seven languages
- Mostly national or European level, and controlled by disabled people



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## The Survey Results

- Strong interest in research (and experiences of collaboration)
- Lack of resources for own research
- Very positive about potential for academic collaborations...
- ...BUT... Universities do not 'understand research needs'
- Civil society have clear priorities and strong ideas (many ideas!)



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## Key arguments for collaborative research

- Increased commitment of academic researchers to social and human rights models of disability
- Increased social relevance of the academic research agenda
- Increased opportunities for interdisciplinary research projects
- Increased opportunities for dissemination and impact
- Increased representation of disabled people in the ERA



# The Research Priorities

- First steps towards a user-led agenda for disability research in Europe?

**European Research Agendas for Disability Equality (EuRADE) - EN print**

**5. Section 2a: priorities for future research**

This project is all about the future of European research. It is important for us to know what kinds of new research would be most useful in the next five years. Please select a maximum of five research topics from the following list, and place them in order of importance for disabled people. You can say more about your priorities in the next section.

**13. What are the most important topics for European disability research in the next five years?**

	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority	4th priority	5th priority
Bioethics and rights to life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disabled children and youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disabled women and gender equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mainstreaming disability policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Media, art and culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-discrimination and human rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organisations of disabled people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting and family life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexuality and reproductive rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social exclusion and poverty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for independent living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transport, mobility or tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban and built environments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other [specify in Section 2b]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other [specify in Section 2b]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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## The 'Top 10'

- Non-discrimination and human rights
- Education
- Mainstreaming disability in policies
- Support for independent living
- Social exclusion and poverty
- Employment
- Health care
- Information and communication
- Bioethics and rights to life
- Transport, mobility or tourism



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## The 'Top 10' for DPOs?

- Non-discrimination and human rights
- Support for independent living
- Education
- Information and communication
- Bioethics and rights to life
- Health care
- Mainstreaming disability in policies
- Organisations of disabled people
- Urban and built environments
- Parenting and family life



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## Developing ideas at the Summer School





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## The Summer School

- 11 national or European DPOs (8 women, 3 men)
- 11 researchers (6 women, 5 men)
- 15 countries represented
- 5 academic disciplines (different methods)
- Shared commitment to disability equality and participation
- Meet the researchers ('presentations' of research activity)
- Doing disability research ('theory', politics, methods?)
- Developing ideas (group work and informal discussion)
- Developing funding proposals (...ongoing work...)



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## Roles for disabled people?

- Research 'subjects' and participants
- Project reference group
- Consultants and advisors
- Peer interviewers
- Co-researchers
- Academics
- Project co-ordinators



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Any Questions?

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[www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/projects/eurade](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/projects/eurade)