European Research Agendas for Disability Equality

(EuRADE)

Proposal for Support Action


Capacity building activities for civil society organisations and development of cooperative research activities

SiS-2007-1.2.1.1 – CSO capacity building in research

Coordinating person: Carlotta Bessozi

List of participants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant no.</th>
<th>Participant organisation name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 (Coordinator)</td>
<td>European Disability Forum</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>University of Maastricht</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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TITLE PAGE
The purpose of this support action is to build the capacity of disabled people’s organisations in Europe to actively participate in the opportunities provided by FP7 and other relevant initiatives. As defined by disabled people in civil society, and in accordance with EC policy, disability is considered here in terms of human rights, non-discrimination, citizenship and social participation. It is in these areas where disabled people’s organisations wish to see research investments and where their participation in research is most urgently required. Support towards this goal will be achieved through a consortium of three partners: the official pan-European civil society network of disabled people (the European Disability Forum) and two expert research partners (Leeds and Maastricht Universities).

1: Scientific and technical quality

Building the capacity of disabled people’s organisations for research participation is important and timely. It will strengthen existing EU commitments to ‘mainstream’ disability equality. It will further the aims of 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, and link user-led research agendas with Europe’s ratification of the new United Nations treaty on disabled people’s rights. Thus, the action will strengthen civil society participation in the European Research Area, further existing EU disability policies, and promote the full participation and equality of disabled people. The work plan addresses the call topic by stimulating the direct participation of civil society organisations, from agenda setting to the submission of collaborative research proposals. It focuses on the domain of ‘discriminations’, identified in the call text (SiS-2007-1.2.1.1), by building capacity for research that will promote disabled people’s equality and human rights. Importantly, this is achieved in transnational partnership between disabled people’s organisations and academic researchers.

1.1 Concept and objectives

Public discourses of disability have changed dramatically during the lifetime of European policy making. For example, in the 30 years between the announcement of a European Communities pilot programme for ‘handicapped people’, in 1974, and the publication of an Action Plan following 2003 European Year of Disabled People, there had been a paradigm shift in thinking, both in Europe and the wider world. While traditional policy approaches focused on care and rehabilitation, to compensate disabled people for their assumed limitations, today the focus is on human rights and social inclusion, challenging the many ways in which European societies exclude disabled people from full participation and equal citizenship. Thus, the EU social model of disability stresses the environmental barriers in society which prevent the full participation of people with disabilities in society. These barriers must be removed...

In response to disabled people’s increasing empowerment within civil society, and spurred by Europe’s ratification of the United Nations Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, disability became a more prominent European theme in the early 1990s. In 1993 a Disabled People’s Parliament was held to mark the first European Day of Disabled People, at which around 500 participants agreed recommendations to the Commission. The resolution passed at that Parliament affirmed that disabled people have equal claims to universal human rights but that they experience discrimination in three ways – through ‘direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, and “unequal burdens” imposed by socially constructed barriers’. Thus:

2 see, Report of the First European Disabled People’s Parliament, 3 December 1993
disabled people should be guaranteed equal opportunity through the elimination of all socially-determined barriers, be they physical, financial, social or psychological, which exclude or restrict full participation in society (ibid.)

After continuing pressure from civil society organisations, disabled people were finally made ‘visible’ in the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997\(^3\) empowering the Council to take action to combat disability discrimination (along with discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age and sexual orientation). In the wider global context, the United Nations established an ad hoc Committee in December 2001 to develop ‘a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination’\(^4\). In the process of finalising this new treaty (opened for ratification in 2007) European voices were prominent (EDF was one of nine non-governmental organisations accredited to the Committee at its opening session). In its submissions, the EU reiterated that ‘The European Union is committed to a rights-based approach to questions concerning people with disabilities’\(^5\). It is within this well-established European policy approach that the support action is framed.

The rise of disabled people’s self advocacy in civil society has been widely characterised as an international social movement, involving new and distinctive organisational forms and identity politics\(^6\). Although civil society action on disability was historically dominated by organisations ‘for’ disabled people (such as professional groupings, charities and development agencies controlled by non-disabled people) organisations ‘of’ disabled people have challenged these traditional patterns – often under the slogan ‘nothing about us without us’\(^7\). Organisations of disabled people, allied to this global movement, have been the key drivers for the kinds of policy developments outlined so far.

More specifically, disabled people’s organisations in civil society have also challenged traditional approaches to disability research, arguing that their voice and priorities should be better represented in shaping research funding opportunities and practice. The emergence of new research paradigms (based on human rights and social models of disability) has been a direct response to these challenges\(^8\). Key to the development of these new research methodologies has been the conceptual distinction between studies based on equality and human rights and studies based on medical, therapeutic or rehabilitation concerns. Thus, in a civil society submission to the Commission’s DG Research, EDF argued that: ‘It is very important for disability


\(^4\) UN General Assembly Resolution 56/168


issues to be separated from health issues and for research in these areas to be similarly distinguished and separated.9 The support action proposed here addresses this distinction directly by focusing on the former rather than the latter.

Civil society organisations, including EDF, have demonstrated a growing interest in research collaboration but often lack the knowledge and capacity to engage as equal partners in major initiatives such as FP7. The explicit purpose of this action is to build their capacity to fulfil this role. This will be achieved by supporting EDF, and its member organisations across Europe, to articulate their own research priorities and needs, and to initiate new collaborations with suitable research partners to meet those needs. In order to do this, it will be necessary to consult with disabled people’s organisations; to develop their knowledge and information about current research on disability equality; and, to match civil society actors with appropriate research collaborators and research funding opportunities. In summary, the support action will increase the research capacity of European disabled people’s organisations (via EDF), by enabling them to:

- identify their own priorities for research that will support the full participation and equality of disabled people in European societies
- gain knowledge and information about the methods and approaches used by researchers in these fields of study
- communicate information about their ideas and capacity to participate to those with influence over future research agendas and opportunities
- identify European research teams with expertise in these areas, and with commitments to disabled people’s participation in research
- engage as active participants in collaborative proposals for new funded research projects

1.2 Contribution to the co-ordination of high quality research

As outlined above, the area addressed by the support action targets European research in support of full participation and equality for disabled people. Research in this context refers to the development of new knowledge about the kinds of direct and indirect discrimination experienced by disabled people, about the kinds of barriers that inhibit their full participation in society, and about the kinds of strategies and solutions required for the removal of these barriers. The potential benefit of such research is wide ranging, since:

...disability, according to the social model, is all the things that impose restrictions on disabled people; ranging from individual prejudice to institutional discrimination, from inaccessible buildings to unusable transport systems, from segregated education to excluding work arrangements, and so on.10

For example, future research might contribute to more equitable laws and policies, more equitable distributions of welfare resources, more inclusive provision in schools and colleges, more empowering practices by professionals in health and social care, more enabling environments and technologies in the workplace, improved media representations of disabled people, or greater public awareness of disability. The benefits of such research also impact on a wide range of academic disciplines (including, for example, social policy, law, sociology, educational research, inclusive design, evaluation research, or geography). The future benefits to the research community can be defined in three ways.

9 EDF response to DG Research consultation on FP7, EDF 05-02
First, the action will enable researchers and research funders across Europe to develop future projects and programmes that more closely address the priority needs of civil society. The development of new research agendas through international consultation activities will ensure that the specification of need is both inclusive of different perspectives and user-led. Wide dissemination of this agenda, via existing interdisciplinary research networks and Internet technologies, will ensure its international impact beyond the immediate project partners and participants.

Second, the action will demonstrate the potential for closer civil society engagement in European research, and for the greater use of collaborative research methodologies (including participatory action research involving disabled people). Building the knowledge and technical capacity of disabled people’s organisations will provide the research community with a wider range of civil society partners for future research projects. Publicising this increased capacity will therefore create opportunities for new collaborations beyond the lifetime and scope of the project partnership.

Third, the development of exemplar projects will demonstrate how research collaborations involving disabled people’s organisations can be realised. Translating civil society priorities into real proposals for research in targeted areas will have direct benefits for those involved. Publicising these initiatives as case studies will also benefit the wider research community by providing resource examples and consultants to support future collaborations in other areas.

1.3 Quality and effectiveness of the support and associated work plan

The strategy for this work plan is based on three principles. First, the work plan maximises broad civil society participation and impact while managing the project through a tightly focused project partnership. Second, the work plan achieves representation by placing civil society actors at the centre of its activities and management structure. Third, the work plan ensures academic excellence through collaboration with leading research centres and associated European networks. The work packages are structured to meet the project objectives and to comply with these principles. The detailed work plan is organised in four work packages (as indicated in the summary table below). These packages are then broken down into work tasks and detailed subtasks (as shown in the GANTT chart and descriptions that follow).

Table 1: Work package list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work package No</th>
<th>Work package title</th>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Lead participant No</th>
<th>Person-months</th>
<th>Start month</th>
<th>End month</th>
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<td>Develop research knowledge</td>
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<td>2 (UNIVLEEDS)</td>
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<td>Identify research opportunities</td>
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<td>29.8</td>
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11 A work package is a major sub-division of the proposed project with a verifiable end-point.
12 Please indicate one activity per work package: SUPP = Support activities; MGT = Management of the consortium.
13 The total number of person-months allocated to each work package
14 Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).
Science in Society - Support Action

EuRADE  
ID Task Name  

1 Identify CSO priorities (Consultation)  
2 1.1 review current themes  
3 1.1.1 discuss EDF priorities  
4 1.1.2 review EDF/UN/EU documents  
5 1.1.3 complete summary report  
6 1.2 consult EDF members  
7 1.2.1 arrange consultation  
8 1.2.2 produce web questionnaire  
9 1.2.3 invite member responses  
10 1.2.4 analyse responses  
11 1.2.5 complete summary report  
12 1.3 disseminate priorities  
13 1.3.1 publicise to EDF members  
14 1.3.2 publicise to research community  
15 1.3.3 brief event for policy stakeholders  
16 2 Develop research knowledge (Information)  
17 2.1 hold research summer school  
18 2.1.1 discuss and plan content  
19 2.1.2 select facilitators and participants  
20 2.1.3 host event  
21 2.2 observe research conferences  
22 2.2.1 select observers and conferences  
23 2.2.2 manage travel fund  
24 2.2.3 complete edited feedback report  
25 2.3 access online knowledge development  
26 2.3.1 select participants  
27 2.3.2 provide access and support  

Note: the Work Breakdown Structure assumes an optimum (early) start date of December 2007 for outputs to impact on May 2009 FP7 deadlines (a later start date will inevitably delay the wider impact of the deliverables to a subsequent submission date).
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### Table 2: Deliverables List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Del. n°</th>
<th>Deliverable name</th>
<th>WP n°</th>
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<th>Dissemination Level</th>
<th>Delivery Date</th>
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<td>WP2</td>
<td>O</td>
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<td>R</td>
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<td>Audit report</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>CO</td>
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15 Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates. Please use the numbering convention <WP number>.<number of deliverable>

16 Please indicate the nature of the deliverable using one of the following codes: R = Report, P = Prototype, D = Demonstrator, O = Other

17 Please indicate the dissemination level using one of the following codes: PU = Public PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services). RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services). CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

18 Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).
Work Package 1: Identifying the research priorities of disabled people’s organisations in European civil society

Work package leader: (EDF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work package number</th>
<th>Start date or starting event</th>
<th>Work package title</th>
<th>Activity type</th>
<th>Participant number</th>
<th>Person-months per participant</th>
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<td>Identify CSO priorities</td>
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<td>1 EDF 2 UNIVLEEDS 3 UM</td>
<td>2.9 2 2.4</td>
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Objectives:

On completion of WP1, EDF and its member organisations will be able to:

- Articulate the needs of civil society for research on disability equality and non-discrimination in Europe
- Communicate these needs widely to influence European researchers, research policy makers and research funders

Our main purpose in this work package is to increase the capacity of EDF and its members to identify and present the research priorities and needs of disabled people’s organisations within civil society, and to frame those needs within the context of existing EU and international policy priorities. To achieve this, the partners will review organisational priorities, current disability issues, and the areas covered by relevant international policy and legal instruments. EDF will then consult with civil society organisations representing disabled people across the EU about the areas in which they perceive the greatest need for new research knowledge. From this review and consultation we will develop a user-defined civil society research agenda and communicate this widely to three key target groups: disabled people’s organisations, relevant research communities, and those with responsibility for European research policy.

Description of work and roles of partners:

This work package involves three sub-tasks.

Task 1.1: review current themes

- discuss EDF priorities
- review UN/EC/EU policy themes
- complete written summary

To avoid unnecessary duplication, the first task is to review existing evidence of disabled people’s priorities. For example, recent EDF priorities have included non-discrimination, human rights, employment, public procurement, transport, information society, social exclusion and poverty, and international development co-operation. The partners will meet to discuss areas where further research is needed, based on current organisational priorities, and to identify forthcoming priority areas. Following this initial meeting, we will review existing policy frameworks and legal instruments.

<sup>19</sup> SUPP = Support activities; MGT = Management of the consortium.
relevant to disability equality. This activity (led by Maastricht) will focus on topic areas identified in European Union/Community and United Nations disability policy frameworks (e.g. including those defined in the EC Disability Action Plan and the new UN Convention to which the EC is signatory). This review activity will provide an outline map of existing priorities and challenges where future research on disability equality might be relevant to civil society and European policy makers. We will combine EDF’s understanding of civil society concerns with the academic partners’ expertise in legal and policy research (Maastricht and Leeds) to produce a joint written summary of current and emergent themes.

Task 1.2: consult EDF members
- plan consultation procedure and meeting
- produce web questionnaire
- invite and analyse responses
- complete written summary

Informed by the review, the second task will be to consult with organisations representing disabled people (at the pan-European level and in the member states). Here we will draw on EDF’s position as the official forum representing European civil society by engaging with its membership organisations. We will arrange a meeting with member representatives at which the consultation plan will be presented and discussed, together with a summary of the reviewed topics. The academic partners will use the topic summary and meeting feedback to develop a web-based questionnaire on civil society research priorities and readiness for engagement. EDF will advertise the questionnaire to its membership throughout Europe, inviting responses with follow-up where required. The academic partners will collate and analyse the responses and produce a summary report, to be agreed with EDF, mapping civil society research interests and capacity against priority policy areas.

Task 1.3: disseminate priorities
- publicise to EDF members
- publicise to research community
- briefing event for policy makers

To complete this work package, the partners will disseminate the research priorities of disabled people’s organisations and promote their readiness to participate in future research opportunities. This activity focuses on three key audiences. EDF will communicate with its membership organisations. The academic partners will communicate to academic and research communities. Research policy actors will also be an important audience (e.g. those with responsibilities for funding opportunities in FP7, the European Research Council, the European Science Foundation, National Research Councils, etc.). EDF will arrange a briefing seminar for this audience involving all three partners.

Deliverables:
The deliverables from WP1 will provide evidence of policy review, user consultation and dissemination activity.
- Summary review of themes and topics published to web (month 4)
- Evidence based consultation report on civil society research priorities (month 7)
- Briefing event for research policy stakeholders (month 10)
Work Package 2: Developing organisational knowledge in civil society about existing research and research methods in European countries

Work package leader: (UNIVLEEDS)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Participant number</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 UM</td>
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Objectives:

On completion of WP2, selected EDF members will be able to:

- Understand the methods and approaches used by European research teams to investigate disability equality and non-discrimination
- Acquire the necessary research knowledge and skills to become active participants in the design of research projects

Our main purpose in this work package is to increase the capacity for active participation in future research by disabled people’s organisations, through knowledge and information. To achieve this we will work with selected EDF member organisations who have identified an interest in participation (via the questionnaire responses in WP1) and facilitate their access to knowledge about the methods and approaches used by European researchers in the field of disability equality and non-discrimination. We will organise a research knowledge ‘summer school’, provide opportunities for civil society observers to attend research conferences, and provide access to further knowledge and information on advanced research methods with online support. As a result we will identify selected participants and research teams to initiate future collaborations (WP3).

Description of work and roles of partners:

This work package involves three sub-tasks.

Task 2.1: research knowledge summer school

- discuss knowledge and information needs
- select facilitators and participants
- host summer school event

The support activity will focus on a residential research summer school, attended by representatives of disabled people and facilitated by the academic partners and additional researchers from European countries. We will begin by discussing and agreeing knowledge needs (involving all three partners) and plan the content and delivery (based on priority topic areas identified in WP1). We will then agree the selection of participants (using consultation responses from WP1) and select facilitators (drawing on the academic partners and their European research networks). The five day residential event will hosted in Leeds. Participants will be introduced to the work of European disability research teams (including that of young

SUPP = Support activities; MGT = Management of the consortium.
researchers and women researchers), to different models of civil society involvement in research, and to the different research methods that inform this work. The event will also support participants to develop their own ideas for research projects of value to civil society, within the defined topic areas, and to discuss how these ideas might be translated into potential research proposals. The outputs from this event will inform the initiation of collaborations in WP3.

Task 2.2: observation at research conferences
- select observers and identify conference opportunities
- manage bookings/travel etc
- complete observer feedback

In order to build capacity for involvement, civil society organisations need to develop a greater awareness of the range and diversity of relevant research in Europe. To support this, we will provide opportunities for representatives of EDF and its member organisations to attend European research conferences as observers during the lifetime of the project. We will establish a support fund (administered by EDF) to provide bursaries for conference attendance, with priority for organisations with identified collaboration ambitions (i.e. those responding to consultation and/or participating in the summer school). Suitable conference opportunities will be identified by the research partners (such as the UK Disability Studies Association conference in 2008 or the Nordic Network on Disability Research conference in 2009). EDF will communicate these opportunities to its members, select the participants and administer the support funds. After each event, CSO observers will complete written feedback to record their experiences and perceptions, and to identify European research teams working in areas where collaboration might be initiated to the benefit of civil society.

Task 2.3: online knowledge development
- select CSO participants
- provide access and support
- participants complete programme

Building on participation in the summer school, there will be opportunity for selected participants to develop more advanced knowledge of disability research methods and project design towards future participation in collaborative projects. The mechanism for delivering this knowledge development will utilise existing provision at Leeds and Maastricht (currently provided for young researchers). Individual participants (selected by EDF in discussion with the research partners) will be provided with access to learning materials in research strategy and design, supported by a tutor from Leeds (they will be offered the optional opportunity to register for Master’s level credits from the University in recognition of this commitment). For those seeking active participation in developing research proposals (WP3) this advanced research knowledge will enable them to ‘learn the language’ of prospective research partners and build their capacity to contribute on equal terms.

Deliverables:
The deliverables from WP2 will provide evidence of participation and knowledge acquisition.
- CSO outline proposals for potential research projects (month 9)
- Edited report of CSO observer feedback from disability conferences (month 17)
- Completion of research design programme by selected participants (month 14)
Work Package 3: Initiating new research collaborations with European research teams within available funding opportunities

Work package leader: (UM)

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<tr>
<th>Work package number</th>
<th>Start date or starting event</th>
<th>Activity type</th>
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<td>Participant number</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person-months per participant</td>
<td>1.3          1.9          2.9</td>
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Objectives:

On completion of the work package, selected EDF members will be able to:

- identify opportunities for research collaboration on disability equality and non-discrimination within EU FP7 and other relevant programmes
- initiate proposal collaborations with appropriate research teams in these areas of opportunity

The purpose of this work package is to extend the capacity developed in WP1 and WP2 by identifying funding opportunities for projects relevant to disabled people in civil society, and to initiate actual collaborations with European research partners. To achieve this, we will begin by reviewing existing funding initiatives and work programmes with reference to the priority topics (developed in WP1) and the specific research interests of selected EDF member organisations (developed in WP2). We will support civil society representatives to meet with selected research partners. The outcome of this support will be the preparation and submission of new research funding proposals developed collaboratively between civil society organisations and research teams.

Description of work and roles of partners:

This work package involves two sub-tasks:

Task 3.1: identification of funding opportunities

- review FP7 work programmes and other relevant programmes
- meet with relevant FP7 managers or research council representatives
- agree priority topic areas for targeted funding proposals

The activity will begin with a review of FP7 themes and work programmes (led by Maastricht with support from Leeds) to identify topic areas where there is greatest fit with the priorities identified by EDF members in the fields of disability equality and non-discrimination. This will be supplemented by meeting with FP7 programme managers and desk officers in the relevant areas and/or with representatives of the European research offices from relevant member states. The precise outcomes will be contingent on the selected participants, the priorities identified, and the funding calls current at the time. We will add to this review by considering opportunities available from other sources (such as the European Research Council, the European

SUPP = Support activities; MGT = Management of the consortium.
Science Foundation and collaborative agreements between the participants’ national Research Councils). Drawing on the user consultation (WP1), the readiness of the participants (WP2) and the funding opportunities available, the partners will agree to support the development of between one and three specific proposals for funded research.

**Task 3.2: initiation of research funding collaborations**
- match CSOs with research collaborators
- arrange visits to research teams

Building on the review and prioritisation of funding opportunities, and on the contacts with research teams (developed in WP2) the partners will propose collaboration work teams for each project, matching active civil society participants with appropriate researchers in member states (including, but not restricted to, those in Leeds and Maastricht). We will establish a support fund (administered by EDF) to enable participants to meet with their chosen research partners to clarify objectives and discuss project design. During the final months of the project these collaborative work teams will develop formal proposals for their chosen project. Although the precise nature and timing of delivery will be contingent upon funding deadlines, the planned outcome of this work package is for the completion of at least one large collaborative research proposal to FP7 within the lifetime of the support action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The deliverables from Work Package 3, as outlined above, will provide evidence of opportunity mapping and of collaborative working between disabled people’s organisations and researchers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Statement of EDF priorities for proposal development linked to funding opportunities (month 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Announcement of selected projects (month 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Completion of first collaborative research proposals (month 17)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Work Package 4: Project co-ordination and management

Work package leader: (EDF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work package number</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start date or starting event</td>
<td>Month 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity type</td>
<td>MGT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant number</td>
<td>1 EDF, 2 UNIVLEEDS, 3 UM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person-months per participant</td>
<td>7.3, 1.9, 1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objectives:

On completion of the work package, the partners will be able to:

- Complete the project within timescale and budget
- Ensure accountability to civil society organisations
- Comply with EU contract and auditing requirements

The purpose of this work package is to ensure that appropriate effort and resources are directed to managing and co-ordinating the support action, and to maximise accountability to disabled people’s organisations in civil society. To achieve this will require regular and effective partner communication, the involvement of EDF member organisations, and sound financial and project management skills. The project will be managed and co-ordinated by EDF, with support from a project administrative coordinator, a project coordination team, and a project advisory group.

Description of work and roles of partners:

This work package involves four of sub-tasks:

Task 4.1: project partnership initiation and co-ordination

The partners will meet to review the agreed work plan, activities, deliverables and budgets (following contract negotiations with the Commission). EDF will appoint a part-time project administrative co-ordinator and planning will involve the relevant financial/administrative officers from each partner. This will ensure clarity to proceed on a sound management basis with agreed work objectives, responsibilities, reporting and audit procedures. The project co-ordination team will hold two further meetings for the purposes of management co-ordination. Regular communication will be maintained by telephone conference calls and email (resource efficiencies that have proved effective in preparing this proposal).

Task 4.2: project advisory group meetings

A project advisory group will be established and maintained by EDF, to include civil society representation and the three partners. This will ensure that the form and content of the support action are clearly accountable to disabled people in civil society. Although itemised here as a management task, the advisory group function should also be considered as contributing to the support tasks through its advice on methods, outputs and milestone decisions. The group will meet periodically, at critical

SUPP = Support activities; MGT = Management of the consortium.
milestone points in the work plan and alternating with co-ordination team meetings (see GANTT and Network diagrams).

Task 4.3: manage contract, finance and audit
- negotiate contract
- manage grant
- complete audit

The contract will be negotiated by EDF, in close consultation with Leeds and Maastricht, prior to the commencement of the work plan. The contract will be managed by EDF as the co-ordinating partner, in consultation with Leeds, Maastricht and the advisory group (where necessary). The part-time project administrative coordinator will implement the necessary day-to-day processes for administrative and financial management, in communication with the relevant administrative officers at Leeds and Maastricht, and under the supervision of EDF Director.

Task 4.4: complete project report

The partners will combine to produce a final project report, outlining the processes and outcomes of the work plan. This will be agreed with the project advisory group and an edited public version published on the project website within 60 days of the end of the project.

**Deliverables:**

The deliverables from Work Package 4, as outlined above, will provide evidence of sound project management and successful completion of the work plan.

- submission of internal project report (month 18)
- external audit reports (month 18+3)
- approved public report published to web (month 18+3)

**Table 3: Summary effort table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant n°/short name</th>
<th>WP1</th>
<th>WP2</th>
<th>WP3</th>
<th>WP4</th>
<th>Total person months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDF</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVLEEDS</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UM</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23 Please indicate in the table the number of person months over the whole duration of the planned work, for each work package, for each participant. Identify the work-package leader for each WP by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold.
Table 4: List of milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone number</th>
<th>Milestone name</th>
<th>Work package(s) involved</th>
<th>Expected date(^{25})</th>
<th>Means of verification(^{26})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Specification of roles and work plan</td>
<td>WP4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Agreement by project coordinating group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Selection of initial priority topics</td>
<td>WP1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Approval by Advisory Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Selection of CSO participants</td>
<td>WP2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Agreement by project coordinating group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Selection of potential research partners</td>
<td>WP3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Agreement by project coordinating group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Selection of research projects</td>
<td>WP3</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Approval by Advisory Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Decision to submit first research proposal(s)</td>
<td>WP3</td>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>Agreement by project coordinating group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{24}\) Milestones are control points where decisions are needed with regard to the next stage of the project. Measured in months from the project start date (month 1).

\(^{25}\) Show how you will confirm that the milestone has been attained. Refer to indicators if appropriate. For example: laboratory prototype completed and running flawlessly; software released and validated by a user group; field survey complete and data quality validated.
2. Implementation

The support action is implemented via a consortium of three partners, utilising a tightly organised core team, appropriate administrative support, devolved responsibilities to bring operational management close to task, and broader external links to civil society. The working language of the project will be English.

2.1 Management structure and procedures

As the co-ordinating partner, EDF will be the principal contractor and budget holder, under the supervision of the EDF Director and with support from a project administrative co-ordinator. The four work packages will be managed collectively by the consortium partners through a project co-ordinating team (comprised of the three lead individuals named in this proposal, with back-up from a colleague in each organisation). The project management function will be also be supported by the project advisory group.

Within this collective management approach, one partner will assume a leadership responsibility for each work package (as indicated in the work plan) with the civil society partner leading the co-ordination package (WP4). All of the partners will contribute some activity in each work package, according to their expertise and capacity. Similarly, each of the main project deliverables will be produced collaboratively and in agreement between the three partners. In this way, the project management structure remains consistent with the philosophical principles of the SiS Work Programme (ensuring genuine collaborative partnership between civil society and research partners at all stages) whilst being tightly focused in its reporting and management responsibilities.

EDF will assume the day-to-day management for resources allocated to its staffing, the organisation of management meetings and the mobility of its CSO member participants (i.e. their travel and subsistence costs for attendance at meetings etc.). This includes management and administration of the ring-fenced funds allocated to support selected participants as conference observers and in meetings with research teams. Funds allocated to the staffing and mobility of the Leeds and Maastricht partners will be devolved to those partners for local management (according to the work allocations) together with resources for support activity carried out locally by those partners (such as the hosting the knowledge summer school and the travel expenses of invited facilitators etc.). Local administrative staff will report on expenditure to the project administrative co-ordinator, and will be responsible for individual organisational audit as required by the contract. This core and partner model, linked by the project co-ordination team and within a tightly structured work plan, will ensure that EDF retains responsibility and control while ensuring that resources are managed as close to task as possible.

The appointment of a part-time project administrative coordinator (based at EDF) will ensure effective liaison between partners, organisation of meetings, teleconferences of the advisory group, selection of participants to the different activities, distribution and collection of consultation items, communication between participants and researchers, dissemination of information on the project, central financial management and audits. For the academic partners, this function will be performed at Leeds by the departmental research officer and the faculty research manager, and at Maastricht by a member of the administrative staff specialised in managing external funding projects, including EC funded projects.

The three partners will liaise regularly through the project co-ordination team, which will be composed of the EDF Director, an elected member of EDF (who will ensure liaison with EDF Governing bodies and committees), the part-time project administrative coordinator, and two representatives from the University of Leeds and
two from the Maastricht University (assuming a minimum of at least one person present at each meeting or conference call).

The project advisory group will include civil society representation (4-6 representatives of disabled people’s organisations, allowing geographical, impairment, expertise, and gender balance) plus representatives of the three partners, to be serviced by the project administrative co-ordinator. The project advisory group will meet periodically and its role will be to receive interim project progress reports and outputs, to advise on decision making at key milestone points, and to ensure that the support and management activities remain accountable to the wider interests and perspectives of civil society organisations.

This management structure is represented schematically in the following diagram.
2.2 Individual participants

**European Disability Forum**

EDF is the umbrella organisation of national and European organisations of disabled people and their families. EDF membership includes one national council of disabled people from each EU and EEA Member States plus a broad range of organisations representing different disability groups and campaign interests in Europe. As the officially recognised umbrella organisation, EDF is ideally placed to initiate the participation of disabled people’s organisations in future research throughout the European Union and the European Research Area. EDF’s mission is to promote equal opportunities for disabled people and to ensure full access to fundamental and human rights through their active involvement in policy development and implementation in the EU by monitoring and influencing legislations and policies in very different areas ranging from non discrimination, social policies, transport, Information society, internal market, competition, enlargement, development cooperation, and fundamental rights.

The support action arises directly from this mission, building EDF’s capacity to influence research agendas and to mobilise research partnerships that will further the full participation and equality of disabled people in European societies. Furthermore it will also allow EDF to empower its own members to engage in dialogue, and cooperation with researchers.

Established in 1996, EDF is a well structured organisation, which holds annual general assemblies, three Board meetings a year, as well as regular Executive Committee meetings in the different EU member States to ensure regular contacts with the wider membership. Its Board is supported by policy committees on issues such as universal access, social policies, and human rights and non discrimination. EDF also informs and consults its members on a regular basis through its weekly mailing. Its website, www.edf-feph.org, is also used as a reference to decision-makers at European and national level. EDF Secretariat, which is based in Brussels has 10 permanent staff. Because of its participative structure, EDF will be able to involve closely its members in the project, respecting the diversity of groups within the disability movement, as well as different national perspectives.

The proposal co-ordinator (Carlotta Besozzi) is the Director of EDF since November 2004. She has been working at EDF since September 2000 after having worked as Parliamentary assistant at the European Parliament from 1995. She has represented the organisation in various European and International conferences, as well as in national seminars and events. She has also written various articles on disability issues. Being responsible for the implementation of EDF work programme, she has a general overview and expertise on the very different fields in which EDF is active. EDF Director will be assisted by a part time coordinator to be recruited following the acceptance of the project, in order to ensure the day to day management of the project, monitoring the implementation of the different work packages, liaison with EDF members, the overall coordination of the project, including financial management.
University of Leeds (Centre for Disability Studies)

Leeds is among the top ten universities for research in the UK with some 3,000 researchers including postgraduates, and an annual research income of more than £70m, of which 8.25% is from EU awards. Many of its research initiatives cross traditional subject boundaries, promoting projects through 58 inter-disciplinary centres. An emphasis on innovative research and investment in high-quality facilities means that 35 departments are rated internationally or nationally 'excellent'. Leeds attracts the highest level of industrial funding of any university in the UK. The Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law is one of the largest in the University. The Faculty's research in the social sciences is internationally rated and hosts major research and interdisciplinary centres.

The Centre for Disability Studies (CDS) is widely regarded as an international leader in research, training and knowledge transfer. Centre staff have pioneered the application of 'social model' approaches to disability research, and promoted collaborations with civil society organisations of disabled people through co-participatory action research methodologies (e.g. with the British Council of Disabled People, the UK National Centre for Independent Living, European Network on Independent Living, local coalitions and self-advocacy groups of disabled people, etc.). CDs was a founding partner in the UK Disability Studies Association and maintains close links with other national networks (e.g. disability studies networks in the Nordic countries, France, Germany and Spain). These links will be invaluable in implementing the networking and dissemination activities in the work plan.

The research group at Leeds links more than 40 academic staff and doctoral students across six faculties (in disciplines such as sociology, social policy, law, transport studies, geography, English, history, health sciences and civil engineering). Such critical mass is extremely rare and places Leeds amongst the three largest disability studies groups in the world. The Centre's core group (located within the School of Sociology and Social Policy) also plays a leading role in the global research environment via its website www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies (see also section 3.2). Since 2001, this public facing focus has brought large numbers of international visitors (from 21 countries) and graduate students (from 15 countries). The Centre portfolio includes projects funded by the EC, the UK Economic and Social Research Council, the British Disability Rights Commission, UK government departments, the World Health Organisation and numerous charitable foundations.

XXX’s appointment as Professor of Disability Policy within the School of Sociology and Social Policy combines theoretical and methodological developments in critical disability research with specific emphasis on co-participatory research methods and critical policy analysis in a range of topic areas (e.g. in relation to community care and independent living, education, access to public transport, and international disaster management). Professor XXX has contributed to the development of capacity in interdisciplinary disability studies in numerous countries (e.g. to the development of disability studies programmes in Costa Rica, France, Germany, Czech Republic, and USA). He has published widely in the field, is co-ordinator of the international disability-research email network, and has made invited keynote or plenary research presentations in ten countries. He is well known as an advocate of co-participatory working with disabled people’s organisations and relevant NGOs and brings experience of developing collaborative research proposals with these actors.
University of Maastricht (Centre for Human Rights)

The Faculty of Law of the Maastricht University focuses research on the areas of comparative law, ius commune, European law and human rights. This project will, in particular, further the Faculty’s strategy to increase externally funded research in the area of human rights. The Faculty is committed to play a leading role in these areas, not only in the Netherlands but more widely in Europe. To that end, it has concentrated its research efforts within two research schools recognised by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW): the Ius Commune research school and the Human Rights research school.

The Maastricht Centre for Human Rights was established in 1993 and combines staff research activities in the field of human rights within the University’s Faculty of Law. The Centre’s activities are focused on, i.a. international human rights law.


The Centre forms part of the Netherlands Research School for Human Rights, together with its sister institutes at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Tilburg University, Utrecht University and the T.M.C. Asser Institute in The Hague (www.law.uu.nl). The Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) is also a key participant in the research alliance. Various disciplines are represented within the Research School: Law, Political Science, History, Philosophy and Cultural Anthropology. The Research School also unites researchers in the field of human rights by offering a combined research and training programme for PhD researchers. The large network and resources of the School will provide opportunities to promote awareness of the project, to provide research knowledge and expertise in human rights, and to engage potential research collaborators.

Lisa Waddington was appointed Extraordinary Professor in European Disability Law at Maastricht University in a unique cooperation between academia and the disabled people’s movement (sponsored by EDF). The main focus of her role is to provide international comparative analysis of developments in European non-discrimination legislation as it relates to the rights of disabled people. A key task of the Chair is to stimulate networking and cooperation between European universities and legal experts in the field of disability law. A further goal of the Chair is to act as a bridge between civil society organisations working in the area of disability and academia. In this capacity Professor Waddington has frequently given information seminars and training for CSO representatives and provided legal advise to EDF. Professor Waddington has experience of co-ordinating large EU research projects and is the disability coordinator of the EC Network of Legal Experts in the Non-Discrimination Field.
2.3 Consortium as a whole

As a consortium the three partners provide a complimentary balance of experience and skills within the focused frame of a support action concerned with building capacity amongst disabled people’s organisations for research on disability equality and non-discrimination. As the official EU body representing civil society, EDF is ideally placed to facilitate consultation and dissemination with disabled people’s organisations and the European Commission. This is complimented by the academic partners’ experience of working in collaboration with disabled people’s organisations in specific research contexts. Maastricht brings specific expertise in legal and human rights research, and access to international human rights research networks. Leeds brings expertise in social and policy research with disabled people, and access to international networks in disability studies. Both Leeds and Maastricht bring experience of funded research and project design in the relevant fields, while all three partners contribute experience and expertise in project management.

Overall coherence and focus for the support action is achieved by a shared commitment to research that involves disabled people, that is responsive to civil society needs, and that produces policy-relevant outputs. In this way, the consortium offers a tightly managed and focused partnership with a proven ability to impact widely on international and interdisciplinary audiences.

i) Sub-contracting:

No part of the work will be sub-contracted.

ii) Other countries:

None of participants will be from outside the EU.
2.4 Resources to be committed

As outlined in the work plan, and discussed under management structure (section 2.1) the negotiated contract and agreed budget will be held by EDF with devolved budgeting to the Universities of Leeds and Maastricht for locally managed expenditure linked to specific work package responsibilities. Costings for EDF and Maastricht are budgeted in Euros. Expenditure in the UK by the Leeds partner is budgeted in Euros using the University’s current agreed conversion assumption, allowing for currency fluctuation, of 0.63 GBP/€.

The staff effort itemised in the work plan consists of person-days commitment from the three named partners (see section 2.2), plus person-days of administrative support, and subsidiary person-days of technical or academic assistance where required. Thus, for example, staff commitment to the implementation of the summer school incurs effort by the academic lead, administrative support in organising the event, and subsidiary academic effort in facilitating the knowledge transfer sessions. Similarily, implementation of the consultation exercise assumes days of academic lead effort, together with administrative support, plus some subsidiary assistance from a research assistant/PhD student. Effort is thus committed to incur a minimum cost-to-skill ratio, utilising different categories of staff to optimise cost-benefit, and focusing investment in lead academic time on complex knowledge-based tasks.

The commitment of effort by each partner has been estimated in days and half days, broken down for each individual person against each of the 38 sub-tasks (shown in the GANTT chart). These are totalled to arrive at a number of person-days per partner for each of the four work packages. A conversion to person-months is then applied to each sub-total (using the UK TRAC audited methodology assumption of 220 working days per year). Thus, the number of person-days effort is multiplied by a factor of 12 months divided by 220 days, rounded to the nearest first decimal place (e.g. 53 person-days x 12/220 = 2.9 person-months). This calculated effort is shown in Table 1 and in the work package description tables. In summary, the personnel budget allows for the part-time coordinator, up to 50 days from the EDF Director and 145 days divided between the two academic lead partners, supported by 81 days of administrative support, and 105 days of technical or academic assistance. The other major direct costs included in the budget may be considered under two headings (costs for travel and the direct cost of hosting events). Additional indirect costs are assumed in the 7% overhead line.

The travel budget includes sufficient mobility costs for the three project partners (or a deputy) to attend all of the meetings and events itemised in the work packages. Project co-ordination team meetings are assumed to take place at EDF offices in Brussels (i.e. incurring no travel cost for EDF staff, train travel from Maastricht to Brussels, and air travel from Leeds to Brussels). Since the selection of civil society participants and research facilitators for the key support events is to be determined during the work packages, mobility costs for these participants are provisionally budgeted using an average cost per participant (assuming mixed modes of travel from different member states). The budgets allocated as discretionary ring-fenced funds (administered by EDF) for the participant conference observers and research meeting attendees are based on similar assumptions (allowing for attendance by 2 people at each of 20 events/days).

The budget for hosting events covers the direct costs of venue hire and hotel accommodation for participants using the partners’ local established rates, in accordance with EU norms. For example, the budget for hosting the summer school assumes current residential delegate rates for each participant and facilitator at the University of Leeds Weetwood Hall conference centre (but non-residential day delegate rates for the host partner participants). The budget also includes contingency for the additional costs of facilitating participation by disabled people in meetings and events (e.g. sign language provision, personal assistance, note takers, additional expense incurred in securing wheelchair accessible hotel rooms, etc.). This is an essential component to the project delivery and a well-
established barrier to the effective involvement of disabled people in research activity. Whilst the precise costs are dependent upon the actual needs of individual participants, the budget assumes a level of cost equivalent to previous events hosted by the partners.

3. Impact

The support action will contribute to the expected impacts of the Capacities Work Programme 2007 (part 5, Science in Society) by democratising the research process, ensuring a voice for disabled people at all stages in research process, prioritising new research themes, and spreading knowledge through pan-European networks.

3.1 Expected impacts listed in the work programme

The support action supports the principal aim of the programme (C(2007)563) to build a more effective and democratic knowledge-based society in Europe with a specific focus on disability. This focus offers particular benefits for the programme, as disabled people represent a significant and growing sector of Europe's population but one that has been historically marginalised and excluded from equal participation. The work plan also offers tangible interventions to integrate participation in scientific activity with European research policies (by initiating policy relevant research design and engaging directly with research funders and policy makers).

The principles underpinning the project strategy and work plan (as outlined in section 2 above) are grounded in the work programme’s preoccupation to ensure that society’s concerns and needs ‘are taken on board’ and that there is ‘democratic debate with a more engaged and informed public’. The project also contributes to the aims of the programme by engaging disabled people’s organisations as the ‘driver and locus for innovation’. The programme document notes that:

> The challenge today is to encourage actors in their own disciplines and fields to participate in developing Science in Society perspectives from the very beginning of the conception of their activities. This is in line with concepts developed in the field of governance, notably that of “co-operative research” (p6)

The project contributes to meeting this challenge directly in its work plan by requiring researchers in relevant fields to engage directly with disabled people’s organisations in the process of shaping new research agendas, from conception to project design. To these ends, the project specifically targets EDF as the official pan-European forum of democratic organisations representing disabled people in the EU. EDF’s experience of facilitating civil dialogue between such organisations and European institutions will ensure that this focus is maintained.

This pan-European dimension is both integral and essential to the work plan for the project. Previous collaborative research (e.g. by the Leeds partner in the UK) has demonstrated the effectiveness of involving disabled people in research conception, design and management at the local and national levels. The purpose of the support action is to extend these methodologies and their impact to the European level.

Importantly, the action seeks to influence future disability research policy and opportunity at the European level and therefore requires European framework for its implementation. The project partnership model will allow capacity building activities to interface with other networking amongst European researchers in the field (e.g. the research networks of the two academic partners, discussed below in 3.2). The benefits of this pan-European approach include trans-national lesson learning and capacity building in under-resourced areas that will strengthen the European Research Area.

The specific call area (SiS-2007-1.2.1.1) identifies three activities in support of the work programme aims, all of which are addressed to some extent in the support action. Thus, the work packages include the identification and discussion of ‘topics and opportunities for future research initiatives’ (e.g. through consultation activity in WP1). There are contributions to ‘Mapping and assessing previous research activities in relation to CSOs needs and interests’ (e.g. through observation and interactions in WP2 and WP3). The action includes specific opportunities for ‘Exploration of possible forms of cooperation with research centres and other
research stakeholders’ (e.g. in developing knowledge of different participation methodologies in WP2 and in matching CSOs with research teams in WP3).

The identification and dissemination of civil society priorities (e.g. through the briefing for research funders and policy makers in WP1) will contribute to increased awareness of the need to mainstream disability in broader non-discrimination and citizenship debates and bring disability ‘to the top of the research policy agenda’. In this sense, the project addresses the Framework programme’s underlying concern to shape future research priorities for 2007-2013 by identifying ‘new and emerging themes’ where future scientific research can be more firmly embedded in society. Acing now to build the capacity of disabled people’s organisations (and particularly in 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All) is essential if any impact is to be made on research investments in the period after 2010.

3.2 Spreading excellence, exploiting results, disseminating knowledge

The activities outlined in the work packages include a number of specific Science in Society engagements, which are strengthened by the partners’ connections to wider networks and public knowledge transfer opportunities.

As the official EU umbrella organisation, representing disabled people in civil society, the European Disability Forum is ideally placed to maximise communication and dissemination amongst disabled people’s organisations and policy making communities throughout the European Union and the European Research Area. EDF members include national councils of disabled people from all of the member states and more than 90 pan-European or state-based non-governmental organisations with civil society interests in the disability field. EDF produces a monthly news bulletin (in English and French) with updates to members, policy makers and other interested people, on the activities and views of the organisation and on EU policy developments. Since 2000, there has also been a weekly mailing sent to EDF members, including rapid information about policy developments, internal information and calls for proposals.

Similarly, EDF’s representative status with European policy makers provides opportunities to influence debate and raise awareness beyond the activities outlined in the detailed work plan (e.g. in representations to the Unit for the Integration of People with Disabilities in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; the Disability Interservice Group; the European Parliament Disability Intergroup of MEPs; or the High Level Group of Member States’ Representatives on Disability). These wider organisational networks will be of benefit in publicising the project and its outputs beyond the immediate participants and partners identified in the work plan.

The academic partners also bring access to significant European and global networks in relevant fields. Complimentary partner resources (beyond the activities funded in the work plan) include institutional investments in academic networking and dissemination which will add value beyond the funded project. For example, the University of Leeds has invested from its International Collaboration Fund to support the Centre for Disability Studies in developing broader academic networking in Europe. This supports Prof. XXX in links with a number of research teams more and in hosting academic seminars at which the project outputs could be further disseminated. Prof Waddington’s appointment at the University of Maastricht supports her active engagement with both disability and human rights networks. Similarly, the project will benefit from EDF’s organisational resource investment in communications and dialogue with civil society organisations and policy makers at the European level beyond the specific activities of the work plan.

For example, in the field of human rights, Prof. Waddington is a member of the Netherlands Research School for Human Rights and disability co-ordinator of the pan-European EC Network of Legal Experts in the Non-Discrimination Field (which draws on expertise in 25 member states on issues of race and ethnicity, religion, disability, age, and sexual orientation). Utilising these contacts and networks will ensure that awareness of the project and its outputs is spread beyond the immediate disability field to inform thinking and practice in the broader area of human rights and non-discrimination.

In the field of critical disability studies, there are relevant research networks in a number of member states and regions that offer potential benefits. For example, the
University of Leeds was a founding partner in the UK Disability Studies Association (www.disabilitystudies.net), providing dissemination opportunities through its newsletters, website and biennial research conference (attracting some 200-300 delegates from within and beyond Europe). The Nordic Network on Disability Research (www.nndr.dk), linking disability researchers in the member states of Denmark, Finland and Sweden with those in Norway and Iceland, hosts a similar biennial event. There are also close links with the French Réseau Fédératif de Recherche sur le Handicap; the Arbeitsgemeinschaft 'Disability Studies in Deutschland' (involving researchers and research students in Germany, Austria and Switzerland); the Royal Board on Disability in Spain; and the National Disability Authority in Ireland; and many direct contacts with smaller informal groups in numerous other member states.

Internet technologies will play an important part in maximising benefit. The wider benefits of the project will be enhanced if the research priorities of disabled people, and the lessons learned from their participation, can be communicated widely to influence research practice and public awareness beyond the scope and lifespan of the funded project. In order to achieve this, the work plan will capitalise on existing high impact Internet resources. In this context, the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds has played a leading global role in developing online knowledge transfer resources since 1994. These include the listserv disability-research@jiscmail.ac.uk, which has more than 750 subscribers in more than 50 countries and provides the primary global focus point for dissemination and discussion of disability research news and issues. This is supplemented by a second email distribution list focused on European researchers, disabilityeurope@jiscmail.ac.uk (Prof. XXX is the owner of both lists). Utilising this global dissemination network to publicise the project methods, case studies and outputs will ensure engagement with the global research community and activist networks.

Similarly, the CDS website is regarded as a significant international research resource (consistently placed first in Google hits for ‘disability studies’, the site was awarded permanent archiving status by the British Library in 2005, is linked from more than 600 websites worldwide, and receives approximately one thousand visitors per month). The Disability Archive section provides a freely accessible public e-repository of more than 400 research papers and is widely consulted by researchers, activists, journalists and students from around the world. Added to this, the exemplar MA Disability Studies by online distance learning (the first of its kind in the world) provides registered learners with access to advanced knowledge development in disability studies and disability research methods. Creating a distinct web presence for the support action within this domain (and advertising it via the email discussion lists and EDF publications) will ensure maximum profile for the project and wide public access to its outputs.

4. Ethical Issues

The project design and implementation raises no significant ethical issues and the call action does not provide for funded ‘research’ activity. The support action does involve human participant volunteers as nominated and informed organisational representatives for consultation purposes (but not as research subjects). Conference observations will take place at public research events and we will ensure that edited observer feedback is recorded only in relation to research themes and projects rather than with reference to named individuals. The project will, however, be conducted in accordance with the established ethical protocols and governance procedures of the partner institutions.

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<tr>
<th>Informed Consent</th>
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<td>• Does the proposal involve children?</td>
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<td>• Are those animals cloning farm animals?</td>
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<th>Research Involving Developing Countries</th>
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<td>• Use of local resources (genetic, animal, plant etc)</td>
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<td>• Benefit to local community (capacity building ie access to healthcare, education etc)</td>
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<td>• Research having potential military / terrorist application</td>
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**I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL**

| YES |