

ACTION PLAN

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ADDRESSED BY THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2021-2026)

(Adopted by Decision № 110 of the Council of Ministers on 12.02.2021)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Action Plan was developed to implement the final recommendations of September 21, 2018 to the Republic of Bulgaria, addressed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in connection with the defense of the first national report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held on 3 and 4 September 2018, in the city of Geneva (CRPD / C / BGR / CO / 1), on the implementation of the country's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified by law - SG , issue 12 of 2012) (SG, issue 37 of 2012)

The final recommendations to Bulgaria are related to the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities in various fields - education, employment, health, economic and social support, participation in political and public life, violence, trafficking, stereotypes and discriminatory practices, women and girls with disabilities, disadvantaged legal framework for equality, mechanism for filing complaints, marriage and family relations, the institute of incapacity, etc.

The draft Action Plan has been prepared by an Interdepartmental Working Group, which includes representatives of all ministries, agencies, public bodies, nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, etc. The plan complements the responsibilities of each institution and organization to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The plan shall include all the recommendations of the Committee, both those implemented, for which results are indicated, and those identified as not implemented or in progress. It outlines measures and activities through which the implementation of some of the recommendations has been achieved so far, as well as those aimed at improving the country's legislation regarding the guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities; activities to overcome stereotypes

and discriminatory practices; expanding the opportunities for participation of persons with disabilities in the labor market; active participation in political and public life; legislative changes to strengthen the protection and support of victims of trafficking and violence against persons with disabilities; training to increase the capacity of magistrates, investigative police officers, educators and social workers; activities to promote the participation of women and girls with disabilities in various spheres of public life; explanatory and information activities, promotion of the Convention, etc.

The implementation of the Action Plan aims to support the implementation of the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, contributing to better protection and ensuring opportunities for active inclusion in public life.

II. IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

To date, the following paragraph recommendations have been implemented:

- General principles and obligations (art. 1-4)

Paragraph 12: The Committee recommends that the State party revise the bill and reject the 2018 amendments to the Law on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities that are contrary to the Convention. It also recommends that the State party adopt a new Law on Persons with Disabilities to ensure compliance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and to establish a framework for the adoption of sectoral legislation to ensure the integration and inclusion of the rights of people with disabilities. disabilities in all areas of life.

Implementation: The Persons with Disabilities Act (PDA), in force of 01.01.2019, repealed the Law on Integration of Persons with Disabilities, which is valid until 31.12.2018. The act introduced a new comprehensive legal framework for settling public relations related to the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The new legislation clearly outlines the horizontal nature of disability rights policy and all sectoral policies that should be involved in providing support for persons with disabilities. New forms of support have been identified to be identified through individual needs assessment.

The act aims to promote, protect and guarantee the full and equal exercise of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities; to create conditions for social inclusion of persons with disabilities; to promote respect for the inherent human dignity of persons with disabilities; to provide support for persons with disabilities and their families.

- Specific rights (art. 5-30)

Article 5 , para.16, unit (b): b) repeal provisions which discriminate in law against persons with disabilities.

Implementation: According to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, all citizens are equal before the law. According to the provisions of the Protection against Discrimination Act (PADA), any direct or indirect discrimination based on a number of grounds is prohibited, incl. damage, as well as of any other signs established in a law or in an international agreement to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party (Article 4).

According to the provisions of Art. 5 of PADA. the construction and maintenance of an architectural environment that hinders the access of persons with disabilities to public places is considered discrimination. In PADA relevant provisions are in place. There is no information about provisions in the Bulgarian legislation that discriminate against persons with disabilities.

Article 5 , para.16, unit (c): (c) to strengthen the enforcement of decisions on discrimination based on disability, including the multiple and cross-sectoral discrimination that persons with disabilities may face;

Implementation: According to the provisions of the fourth chapter of PADA. persons who consider themselves to be discriminated against have the opportunity to apply to the relevant district court (Section II) or to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Section I).

The Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPAD) has the right to establish violations of PADA and other laws governing equality of treatment, the perpetrator and the person concerned; to order the prevention and cessation of the violation and the restoration of the original situation; to impose sanctions and apply measures of administrative coercion; to give mandatory prescriptions in view of the observance of PADA. or other laws governing equality of treatment; to provide independent assistance to victims of discrimination in filing complaints of discrimination, etc. According to Art. 74, para. 1 of PADA, in the cases under section I of the fourth chapter of this law, any person who has suffered damages from violation of rights under PADA or under other laws governing equality of treatment, may bring an action for compensation under the general procedure against the persons and / or bodies who caused the damage.

According to the provisions of PADA. no state fees are collected for proceedings before the CPAD (Art. 53, para. 1) and the court under this law (Art. 75, para. 2).

According to Art. 67 of PADA. The CPAD exercises control over the observance of the coercive administrative measures. The person on whom a sanction or coercive administrative measure has been imposed shall be obliged to take measures for fulfillment of the obligatory prescriptions and to notify in writing the commission within a term determined in the decision, which may not be longer than one month.

According to Art. 82, para. 1 of PADA, who does not comply with a decision of the CPAD or the court, ruled under this law, shall be punished by a fine of BGN 2,000 to 10,000, if not subject to a heavier penalty. In case that after the expiration of three months from the entry into force of the decision under para. 1 the violation continues, a fine of BGN 5,000 to 20,000 is imposed.

The CPAD considers and resolves the files filed before it in permanent panels, one of which specializes in the field of disability, age, sexual orientation and marital status. Cases of multiple discrimination are dealt with by an extended panel of five members.

The analysis of the proceedings initiated by the CPAD for 2018 and for 2019 shows that there is a tendency for the protected sign "damage" to have the largest number of complaints received by the CPAD for the year and to increase in absolute terms (460 for 2018 and 675 for 2019).

In 2018, the CPAD launched the "Accessible Bulgaria" campaign, recognizing the importance of the problem of the accessible environment for persons with disabilities. The campaign has main priorities: to show good examples of an accessible environment; to look for public figures to join the campaign and help promote it; The CPAD should independently assess the accessible environment, initiate proceedings and impose sanctions and coercive administrative measures provided for in the law, in order to ensure the creation and maintenance of an accessible public environment for persons with disabilities.

Article 5 , para.16, unit (d): (d) to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities, have access to the remedies available in cases of discrimination based on disability and to strengthen the capacity of the Equality Authority to exercise its mandate regarding procedures for the protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination.

Implementation: According to the provisions of the fourth chapter of PADA. persons who consider themselves to be discriminated against have the opportunity to apply to the relevant district court (Section II) or to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Section I).

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Article 6 , para.18 (c): (c) to adopt national policies to protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Implementation: The Health Act has developed a chapter "Reproductive Health". It regulates reproductive rights in accordance with modern beliefs - safe motherhood, infertility, prevention of breast and cervical cancer, family planning, childcare.

A series of by-laws have introduced detailed regulations to ensure the prevention of pregnancy, preventive examinations of children from 0 to 18 years, performing abortions at will. According to health legislation, pregnant women, mothers and children enjoy special protection from the state. According to the Health Insurance Act, the state covers the health insurance of children aged 0-18 and beyond while they are full-time students, which ensures their access to medical care.

A priority in health legislation is the promotion and prevention of health, in particular reproductive health. In the sub-normative acts, the obligations are delegated to the general practitioners.

The main elements of reproductive health care at the level of primary care include:

- family planning services, including counseling;
- training and services for antenatal care, safe birth and postpartum care, especially breastfeeding and care for mother and child up to 1 year;
- prevention and proper treatment of infertility;
- abortion, including prevention and treatment of abortion complications;
- prevention of diseases of the female reproductive system - cervical cancer, breast cancer;
- prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV / AIDS;
- information, education and communication on human sexuality.

Article 7 , para.20 (d): (d) to adopt, in close cooperation with the representative organizations of children with disabilities, regulations and programs to ensure that children with disabilities are able to express their views and opinions on all matters which affect them in the family, the school and in society, and in particular the children who remain in institutions.

Implementation: In 2003, the Children's Council was established at the State Agency for Child Protection. Its creation is in compliance with the basic principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the current Child Protection Act. The Children's Council is an advisory body to the Chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) and is a voluntary association of children, carrying out its activities in accordance with the Republic of Bulgaria legislation. The purpose of its creation is to encourage children's participation in policy-making processes for children and decision-making.

The main mission of the Children's Council is to present the children's point of view, thoughts and feelings on issues that affect the right to protection, development and participation of children in social and political life. The Children's Council enables children to exchange knowledge, moral and intellectual values and to interact with state and non-governmental organizations at the national and regional level.

The council includes one representative of the children from each administrative district, its members have a two-year term and elect from among themselves a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and a chronicler. Representatives of the 28 administrative districts in Bulgaria are included in the Children's Council under the Chairman of the SACP. There are 4 quotas for children from vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, as well as 1 quota for a representative of children who have received international protection in Bulgaria.

Article 8, paragraph 22: The Committee recommends that the State party undertake, in close and close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, permanent and effective awareness-raising strategies, including campaigns to promote the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities. disabilities in society, in the private and public sectors.

Implementation: In the past, persons with disabilities in Bulgaria were subject to attitudes and practices that led to isolation, with most of them being protected and cared for by their families or the state.

At present, thanks to the state policy, the problems faced by persons with disabilities and their families and relatives are in the process of being solved.

Progress has been made in providing adequate social inclusion services, which has led to an increase in the number of children with disabilities raised by their biological families or by relatives or friends, as well as an increase in the number of persons with disabilities who have overcome social exclusion. The development of alternative services and care for children with disabilities and for the support of their families has been achieved, the access to education and the labor

market has been expanded, as well as the opportunities for participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the society.

The People with Disabilities Act stipulates that the employment of persons with disabilities is carried out in a normal, specialized and protected work environment. Employment under normal conditions on the open labor market presupposes the fastest socialization for persons with disabilities and prevention of social exclusion. In order to guarantee and increase the employment of this target group, a quota was introduced for employers to hire workers and employees with permanent disabilities (employers with 50 and over 50 employees and their employees are affected). The quota principle is borrowed from international practice to support the exercise of the right to work by persons with disabilities. In this way better conditions and motivation are created for persons with disabilities to be included in the labor market, in order to receive income from work, the availability of social security contributions through the relevant social security rights, building social contacts and more. The aim is to create opportunities for sustainable employment.

The process of upgrading the measures aimed at the specialized working environment, aimed at supporting the specialized enterprises and cooperatives of persons with disabilities, continues. Measures include providing opportunities for the implementation of local initiatives in order to increase their productivity and competitiveness, increase the employability of persons with disabilities in a specialized work environment and improve their training and employment, as well as providing financial resources for overcoming the economic constraints of enterprises and cooperatives.

The new PDA introduced a measure to encourage the development of forms of employment in a sheltered work environment, which creates sheltered employment centers for people with multiple permanent disabilities. These types of centers are a mechanism to support the labor integration of persons with multiple permanent disabilities, in order to provide conditions for productive activity, paid work and the provision of personal support services. The law creates conditions for the implementation of the priorities set in the National Strategy for persons with Disabilities and formulated

in accordance with the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 "Renewed commitment to a barrier-free Europe". The main strategic goal achieved with the PDA is to provide the necessary and adequate socio-economic support for persons with disabilities from the state, through which they can be maximally integrated into society. The new legislation guarantees the equal and full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities. The areas and means for the necessary support for social inclusion have been defined in a new way. Principles have been introduced that define personal choice, independence, equality, accessibility, full and effective participation in the public life of persons with disabilities and their families.

The Personal Assistance Act, in force since 01.01.2019, regulates a new type of assistance - personal assistance, defined as a mechanism to support persons with disabilities to exercise their rights, to fully participate in society, to carry out activities meeting their individual needs of a personal, domestic or social nature and to overcome the barriers to their functional limitations. This mechanism is based on state-guaranteed financial support, individual needs and choices of persons with disabilities.

Undoubtedly, an extremely important prerequisite for the successful social inclusion of people with special needs is a change in society's attitudes towards them. There are still misconceptions, regrets, indifference and negativity towards persons and children with disabilities, but thanks to the joint efforts of the state and organizations of and for persons with disabilities, significant progress has been made in overcoming barriers and stereotypes in the way persons with disabilities themselves present themselves and perceive the disability.

Article 9, paragraph 24, unit (a): The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with General Comment № 2 (2014) of the Committee, make available:

(a) to harmonize its legislation fully with the provisions of Article 9 of the Convention;

Implementation: Regarding the accessible architectural environment in the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) the necessary changes have been made in the implementation of the measures included in the Concept for changes in the national legislation related to the application of Art. 9 “Accessibility” of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with regard to the accessible architectural environment, approved by Decision № 638 of 3.8.2016 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria.

- according to art. 75, para. 3 of the Spatial Development Act, the transport technical infrastructure must provide the best conditions for convenient, safe and economical transport of passengers and goods and for accessibility of persons with disabilities, while protecting the environment;

- according to art. 112, para. 4 of the Spatial Development Act with the detailed development plans must be created conditions for the arrangement of the environment and the technical infrastructure for the purpose of accessibility and use by persons with disabilities, according to the requirements of the ordinance of art. 169, para. 4 of the Spatial Development Act for the requirements for accessible environment for the population, including for persons with disabilities;

- according to art. 169, para. 1, item 4 of the Spatial Development Act, the constructions shall be designed, executed and maintained in accordance with the basic requirements to the constructions (including for accessibility and safety during operation), defined in Annex I of Regulation (EU) № 305/2011 of the European Parliament and Council laying down harmonized conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106 / EEC (OJ L 88/5, 4 April 2011);

- according to art. 169, para. 4 of the Spatial Development Act, the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works has issued an ordinance for determining the requirements for accessible environment for the population, including persons with disabilities - Ordinance № 4 of 2009 for design, implementation and maintenance of constructions in accordance with the requirements for accessible environment of the population, incl. for persons with disabilities

(Ordinance № 4 of 2009) (promulgated, SG No. 54/2009, amended, SG No. 54/2011). The ordinance determines the requirements for spatial planning, investment design, implementation and maintenance of constructions (elements of the urban area and buildings and facilities) to provide an accessible architectural environment for the whole population, taking into account the specific needs of people with reduced mobility, including persons with disabilities. The ordinance is also applied during reconstruction, major renovation, overhaul, reconstruction, extension and superstructure of existing elements of urbanized territory and of buildings and facilities;

- in Art. 184 of the Spatial Development Act, certain conditions and procedure for construction or installation of facilities for accessible environment for persons with disabilities in existing buildings are determined.

The provisions of the Spatial Development Act, as well as the normative requirements for providing an accessible architectural environment, should be observed by all participants in the design and construction process according to Art. 160, para. 1 of the Spatial Development Act - assignors, builders, designers, consultants, individuals exercising technical control for the "Constructive" part, technical managers and suppliers of machinery, equipment and technological equipment, by the bodies that coordinate and approve the development plans and investment projects, issue construction permits and acts for putting into operation of the completed constructions, as well as by the control bodies.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is responsible for verifying the implementation of the above-mentioned legal provisions and regulations in approving detailed development plans, coordinating and approving investment projects and issuing building permits for sites with more than one area, sites with national importance and / or national sites, republican roads, railway highways and railway lines (respectively in implementation of the provisions of art. 129, para. 3, item 2, art. 141, para. 6, item 2, art. 145, paragraph 1, item 3 and Article 148, paragraph 3, item 2 of the Spatial Development Act).

At the beginning of 2019, in connection with the entry into force of 1.1.2019 of the new LPD, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works initiated the establishment of an interdepartmental working group to review the implementation of the requirements of Ordinance № 4 of 2009. the working group was to achieve compliance with the provisions of the LPD and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (mainly with Article 9), improve the regulatory requirements for ensuring an accessible environment in buildings and facilities and update them in accordance with international standards and good practices.

In connection with the changes in the legislation, the new proposals for changes are integrated in the main text of Ordinance № 4 of 2009 and the draft is formed as an entirely new ordinance of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, to be issued on the basis of Art. 53, para. 3 PDA and in connection with Art. 112, para. 4, Art. 169, para. 1, item 4 and para. 4 TPA (territorial planning Act). The name of the new ordinance is determined in accordance with the new legal basis in the LPD, namely: Ordinance for determining the requirements for accessibility and universal design of the elements of the accessible environment in the urban area and of the buildings and facilities.

The draft of a new ordinance has been officially agreed with the interested parties and a public consultation has been conducted for it in implementation of Art. 26, para. 3 of the Statutory Instruments Act. Under number 2020/331 / BG the project passed the procedure for notification to the European Commission pursuant to Decree № 165 of the Council of Ministers of 2004 on the organization and coordination of the exchange of information on technical regulations and rules for information society services and for establishing of procedures relating to the application of certain national technical rules to products lawfully placed on the market of another Member State. At the moment, the prepared new ordinance is being finalized and is being formed for signing and promulgation in the State Gazette.

With the Ordinance on the requirements for the categorized places for accommodation and restaurants and entertainment, on the procedure for determining the category, as well as on the conditions and procedure for registration

of guest rooms and guest apartments, adopted by the Council of Ministers (Ordinance) issued on the basis in Art. 121, para. 5 of the Tourism Act, requirements have been introduced, which should be met by the accommodation and catering and entertainment establishments for accessible environment for the people with reduced mobility according to the Ordinance under Art. 53, para. 3 of the PDA.

Article 16, Paragraph 38, unit (d): (d) to strengthen the mechanisms for independent monitoring of all facilities and programs for persons with disabilities, in accordance with Art. 16 (3) of the Convention.

Implementation: In 2019, an important step was taken in building the institutional framework for the implementation of the CRPD - the Monitoring Council was established. The -Monitoring Council, established in accordance with the requirements of Art. 33, para. 2 and 3 of the CRPD, is a monitoring body for the implementation of the Convention. The structure, powers, main activities and the procedure for electing the members of the Council are regulated in the PDA and the regulations for its implementation, and the rules for its work are adopted by the Council itself. In 2019, a procedure was held for the election of members - representatives of organizations for persons with disabilities, and on July 8, 2019, its first meeting was held, chaired by the Ombudsman, who is also its first rotating chairman.

During the preparation of the draft Persons with Disabilities Act, in force since January 1, 2019, the recommendations of the Ombudsman and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Bulgarian state on t September 21, 2018 have been implemented and the normative act provides for the establishment of a Supervisory Board.

In the provisions between Art. 11 - 15 and § 14 and § 15 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the PDA regulate the composition, organization and activity of the Council.

The Monitoring Council consists of 9 members - two representatives appointed by the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, two representatives appointed by the Chairman of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, four

representatives of organizations of and for persons with disabilities appointed by them, and one representative of the academic community, determined by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The organizations of and for the persons with disabilities shall appoint their representatives in accordance with the procedure established by the regulations for the application of the law.

The activity of the Monitoring Council is administered through the administration of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination on a rotating basis for a period of two years.

The Chairman of the Monitoring Council is a representative of the institution that administers the activities of the Monitoring Council, and the Deputy Chairman is a representative of the organizations of and for persons with disabilities, elected by them, on a rotating basis for a period of one year.

The Monitoring Council has the power to:

1. prepare opinions, recommendations and proposals to the responsible institutions for prevention and cessation of the violations of the rights of the persons with disabilities;
2. prepare annual reports on the actions taken for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
3. carry out periodic review and assessment of the national legislation, practices and drafts of normative acts for compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
4. carry out other activities related to the promotion, protection and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

The Council should carry out the functions of promoting, protecting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in compliance with the principles of protection and guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities; independence and publicity; cooperation and interaction with state and local authorities and civil society.

The mandate of the Council is 4 years, and according to the LPD, the members of the Council are not remunerated for their participation in it.

Pursuant to § 1 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Regulation for the implementation of the People with Disabilities Act for the first two years, the Supervisory Board is administered by the administration of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 19, paragraph 40, unit (d): In accordance with General Comment № 5 (2017) on independent living and inclusion in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party: (d) carry out a procedure for reasonable and sensitive consultation with human organizations with disabilities in all aspects of the implementation of Art. 19, including in the strategies and processes of deinstitutionalization.

Implementation: The PDA regulates the functioning of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), which is the legal successor of the National Council for Integration of Persons with Disabilities, which functioned until the entry into force of the PDA.

NCPD is an advisory body in which representatives of: the state appointed by the Council of Ministers, nationally representative organizations of persons with disabilities, nationally representative organizations for persons with disabilities, nationally representative organizations of employees, nationally representative organizations of employers

and the National Association of the municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria. Legislation for persons with disabilities is adopted after a preliminary opinion of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The main functions and tasks of NCPD are:

1. to provide support and assistance in the development and implementation of disability rights policy in accordance with the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, national legislation and the priorities of the relevant strategic documents;
2. to give opinions on all drafts of normative acts, strategies, programs, plans and other acts, which affect the rights of the persons with disabilities;
3. to assist in the coordination between the state and local bodies, the employers 'and trade unions' organizations and the organizations of and for the persons with disabilities for realization of the necessary support in implementation of their activities and for the creation of conditions for social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
4. to interact with other bodies for cooperation, coordination and monitoring on the issues concerning the rights of people with disabilities;
5. to interact with international organizations with subject of activity in support for the persons with disabilities;
6. to organize the popularization of the undertaken measures for overcoming of established barriers for exercising the rights of persons with disabilities in selected areas of support through active cooperation with the media;

7. to discuss and adopt a summary annual report on the implemented activities of the organizations of and for the persons with

disabilities with recognized national representation with provided financial support in the form of a subsidy from the state budget and the results achieved in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The PDA also establishes a Monitoring Council, which aims to perform the functions of promoting, protecting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Supervisory Board operates in compliance with the following principles:

1. protection and guarantee of the rights of persons with disabilities;
2. independence and publicity;
3. cooperation and interaction with the state and local bodies and with the civil society.

The Monitoring Council consists of 9 members - two representatives appointed by the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, two representatives appointed by the Chairman of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, four representatives of organizations of and for persons with disabilities, appointed by them, and one representative of the academic community, determined by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The term of office of the Monitoring council is 4 years and starts from the date of its composition. The members of the council carry out their activity until the constitution of the new composition.

The organizations of and for persons with disabilities appoint their representatives in accordance with the rules for the application of the law, in accordance with the prescribed procedure for election of members of the Monitoring Council.

The activity of the Supervisory Board is administered through the administration of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination on a rotating basis for a period of two years. The **Monitoring Council is represented by a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman**. The Chairman of the Supervisory Board is a representative of the institution that administers the activities of the Supervisory Board for the respective period. The Deputy Chairman of the Monitoring Council is a representative of the organizations of and for persons with disabilities, elected by them, on a rotating basis for a term of one year.

Representatives of other institutions, organizations, independent experts, employers, trade unions and others may also be invited to the meetings of the Supervisory Board.

The Monitoring Council:

1. prepare opinions, recommendations and proposals to the responsible institutions for prevention and cessation of the violations of the rights of the persons with disabilities;
2. prepare annual reports on the actions taken for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
3. carry out periodic review and assessment of the national legislation, practices and drafts of normative acts for compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
4. carry out other activities related to the promotion, protection and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Decisions of the Monitoring Council shall be taken by a majority of more than half of the members present.

The Monitoring Council adopts regulations for its activity and organization of work.

The Monitoring Council works on the basis of an annual program adopted by it.

The Monitoring Council annually submits a report on its activities to the National Assembly for information.

In addition to the bodies established by the PDA, in compliance with the requirements of Art. 33 of the Convention, the National Council for Child Protection (NCCP) functions, which is a body of the State Agency for Child Protection and has consultative and coordinating functions. It consists of a chairman and members.

The chairman of the council is the chairman of the State Agency for Child Protection, who organizes, manages its activities, coordinates the implementation of its decisions and represents it.

The number of members of the council may not be less than 23 and not more than 29 persons, including the chairman.

The composition of the council includes Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Deputy Minister of Justice, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Deputy Minister of Health, Deputy Minister of Interior, Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Culture, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, the Director of the Social Assistance Agency, the Secretary of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, a representative of the National Council on Narcotic Substances, Deputy Chairman of the National Statistical Institute, the Deputy Governor of the National Social Security Institute, the Governor of the National Social Security Institute, the Secretary of Central Commission for Combating Anti-Social Manifestations of Minors and a responsible representative of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The composition of the council also includes heads of non-profit legal entities, including organizations working with children and persons with disabilities, as well as having the subject of activity child protection.

To participate in the meetings of the council, the chairman may invite representatives of the media, persons with high public authority and representatives of non-profit legal entities, which have the subject of child protection and are not included in the council, as well as representatives of children. organizations. The mandate of the non-governmental organizations for participation in the work of the NCCP is 2 years. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the NCCP provides an opportunity to consult and coordinate policies for children and persons with disabilities and policies in the field of child protection.

In the preparation of all changes in the regulatory framework in the field of health care, interdepartmental working groups were formed with broad participation of representatives of all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, whose analyzes, opinions and proposals were included in the draft regulations and presented to the public. Examples in this direction are the integration of activities and practices through ongoing dialogue and communication with non-governmental organizations in the work of creating a new model for medical and social expertise of the degree of disability and introduction of assessment of disability and functioning using the International Classification of Human Rights functionality, disability and health (ICF) of the World Health Organization.

Article 25, paragraph 52: The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the human rights model of persons with disabilities among all health professionals, including training on the right to free and informed consent, and pay attention to article 25 of the Convention in the implementation of Objective 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt a policy framework and strategy linked to a time horizon for providing women with disabilities with affordable sexual and reproductive health care and information and services according to their age.

Implementation: Health legislation provides for a number of measures aimed at protecting women's health and reproductive capabilities.

The state provides health protection of reproductive health through: promotion and consultations for protection of reproductive health in children and persons of reproductive age; providing access to specialized counseling on reproductive health and family planning; prevention and treatment of infertility; specialized information, consultations, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS; prevention, treatment and dispensary monitoring of persons with malignant diseases of the reproductive system. Everyone is given the right to information and freedom to decide on their reproductive health.

National System 112 ”- the Ministry of Interior has developed and put into operation from 01.2019 a mobile application providing access to persons with hearing and speech impairments to tel. 112. In 2020 the application was updated. The same can be downloaded from Apple and Google stores and used for free.

Article 25, paragraph 54: The Committee recommends that the State party provide access to diagnosis, health care and medical rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, especially those with chronic, genetic and rare diseases.

Implementation: One of the principles enshrined in the Health Insurance Act is equality in the use of medical care by compulsorily insured persons, including persons with disabilities. Compulsory health insurance guarantees free access of insured persons to medical care through a specific type, scope and volume of a package of health activities, as well as free choice of contractor who has concluded a contract with the regional health insurance fund. Within the package of medical services guaranteed by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), defined by the Ordinance for determining the package of health activities guaranteed by the budget of the NHIF, all health insured persons (HIP) have equal rights and access when receiving outpatient and inpatient medical care regardless of their race, nationality, ethnicity, sex, origin, religion, education, beliefs, political affiliation, personal and social status or property status. For persons with disabilities, the NHIF provides the same scope, quality and standard of medical and dental care as for all health insured persons. To facilitate access to health care, health insured persons suffering from chronic diseases that require long-term medical

supervision, supportive treatment and specific care are exempt from user fees for visits to the GP, dentist or hospital. The list of diseases is an integral part of the National Framework Agreement between the NHIF and the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA), the Bulgarian Dental Association (BDA) and the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union (BPU), which regulates the type and scope of medical activities paid for by the NHIF. Additionally, outside the scope of the compulsory health insurance, the Ministry of Health finances state and municipal medical establishments for hospital care and state and municipal centers for mental health for medical activities, for which it is provided by law or other normative act to be financed from the state budget. for the medical activities outside the scope of the compulsory health insurance, for which the Ministry of Health subsidizes medical establishments, and for the criteria and the procedure for subsidizing medical establishments. The activities financed by the Ministry of Health include recreation (once a year), prevention and rehabilitation (twice a year) of war invalids and war victims; inpatient treatment, daily psycho - rehabilitation programs and rehabilitation through occupational therapy for persons with mental illness; diagnosis, treatment and specialized care for children at high medical risk, outside the scope of compulsory health insurance; treatment of patients with active tuberculosis, as well as the medical expertise carried out by the TEMC (Territorial expert medical commission).

The conditions and the procedure for exercising the right of access and free choice of the insured persons to medical care are regulated by the Ordinance for exercising the right of access to medical care, from 2006, which regulates the conditions and the procedure for exercising the right of access to medical care. to the compulsorily insured persons in the Republic of Bulgaria and to the persons residing in the country and to whom the rules for coordination of the social security systems within the meaning of § 1, item 22 of the additional provision of the Health Insurance Act, applies.

Article 26, paragraph 56: The Committee recommends that the State party adopt habilitation and rehabilitation programs for all persons with disabilities, regardless of disability, sex, gender or age. It also recommends that the State party ensure

the reasonable participation of persons with disabilities in habilitation services and that the draft programs be developed in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Implementation: As compulsory health insured persons, all persons with disabilities have access to rehabilitation programs provided through the NHIF. Free access of the insured persons to medical care, including rehabilitation, is guaranteed through a package of health activities determined by type, scope and volume.

Article 27, para.58, unit (b): (b) to recognize in its legal and political framework the right of persons with disabilities to reasonable facilities at work.

Implementation: According to Art. 16 of PADA. the employer is obliged to adapt the workplace to the needs of a person with a disability when he is hired or when the person's disability occurs after his employment, except when the costs are unreasonably high and would seriously hinder the employer.

Article 27, para 58, unit (c) (d): (c) to raise awareness among the public and private companies of reasonable facilities in the workplace; (d) to strengthen training programs for persons with disabilities on the skills required in the open labor market, but also on entrepreneurial skills, and to collect detailed information on the participation of women and men with disabilities in the programs and the results of their training.

Implementation: The Employment Agency (EA), as a public intermediary on the labor market, implements the state policy on employment and protection of the labor market, organizes vocational guidance, adult training, provides employment mediation services, implements programs and incentive measures under Employment Promotion Act (EPA) and projects under the Operational Program “Human Resources Development” (OP HRD). The focus is on vulnerable groups in the labor market, including persons with disabilities, with active job search behavior.

The EA implements actions aimed at persons with disabilities in accordance with the requirements of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020 and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

According to the Employment Promotion Act , all persons are equal in using the services provided by the territorial divisions of the Employment Agency - the Labor Office directorates (LBD), after their registration as job seekers. Unemployed persons with disabilities registered as jobseekers may use employment services without any form of direct or indirect discrimination.

The main goal in the implementation of the policy in the field of employment of persons with disabilities is the creation of conditions and guarantees for equality and their full participation in working life, as well as the exercise of their rights by providing support to persons with disabilities and their members families.

The employment of persons with permanent disabilities is one of the main tools for their integration in all areas of public life. The Employment Agency, through the Labor Office directorates, mediates in finding suitable work and / or inclusion in adult education.

An organization has been introduced to provide specialized employment mediation for unemployed persons with disabilities. Especially for persons with disabilities, a Standardized package of services has been created, which upgrades the other services offered and provides full service to individuals. It sets the general framework for the type, consistency and delivery of services targeted at unemployed persons with disabilities, with a view to ensuring the fastest possible transition to sustainable employment.

The package may include:

- support for self-employment;

- motivation for active behavior on the labor market;
- psychological support;
- Individual support is provided by a case manager; case - the manager offers a package of services (services provided by institutions - social, health, educational, complementary to mediation services), which best meet the needs of the unemployed, plan and coordinate the process of their provision;
- inclusion in adult education;
- A tool in the work of labor intermediaries, which expands the scope and quality of employment services for unemployed persons with permanent disabilities is a Job Search Workshop, giving them the opportunity to:
 - fill the knowledge gaps regarding the job search process;
 - improve and upgrade the already acquired skills in terms of the desired effect - starting work;
 - increase the motivation for active behavior on the labor market;
 - forms confidence for successful overcoming of psychological and behavioral barriers;
 - reinforced the feeling of effective inclusion in the labor market.
- providing information to the jobseeker about suitable vacancies - when visiting the site or by e-mail;
- targeting suitable jobs in the primary labor market;
- Inclusion in programs and measures for training and employment, under EPA, as well as in projects under OP HRD, provided that they meet the set requirements.

- Implementation of joint activities with NGOs supporting the integration of persons with disabilities, incl. with organizations of and for persons with disabilities;
- Motivating employers to provide opportunities for employment, accessibility and adaptation of jobs to the specific needs of persons with disabilities. Employers attending Labor Office directorates should be explained the benefits of hiring a person with a disability and convinced of the social impact of creating and adapting jobs for persons with disabilities;

The main emphasis in the provision of services to persons with permanent disabilities is in the accurate assessment and support for the discovery and development of their opportunities, the specific knowledge and skills and the strengths that they should implement when entering employment.

- Organizing specialized job fairs for persons with disabilities;

From July 2019, the unemployed persons with reduced working capacity are included in the new mediation services as a priority:

- "Consultation and mentoring after starting work"
- "Family Labor Consultant"
- "Mobile Labor Office" - the service is aimed at unemployed and economically inactive persons and employers from small settlements, to increase opportunities for meeting the supply and demand of the labor market and to reduce the share of discouraged persons through quality and comprehensive service on-site from mobile Labor Office directorates teams.

In order to ensure sustainable employment of persons with disabilities in 2019, quotas have been introduced, as another mechanism by which the state hopes that the fight against discrimination on the grounds of disability will have its real positive results. The aim of the law is to increase the share of persons with disabilities working in the primary labor

market. The purpose of the quotas is to ensure the promotion of equal employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and those without disabilities. Therefore, in Art. 38, para. 2 of the Law for the persons with disabilities the stipulation is made that with the accommodated in places for employed workers and employees the employer cannot fulfill the quota under art. 38, para. 1 of the same law. In cases where the employer wishes to use mediation for hiring persons with permanent disabilities through the Employment Agency, he should notify the relevant territorial division in whose territory his seat is located, submitting a notification form, information about which is published on the official website of The Employment Agency.

From April 2019 in the Labor Office directorates ", in accordance with the Regulations for the implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, are accepted notifications from employers in connection with the implementation of quotas for hiring people with disabilities under Art. 38 (1) of the Persons with Disabilities Act.

A package of methodological materials has been prepared and submitted to the Labor Office directorates, which includes:

- Instruction for the work of the Labor Office for implementation of the regulations for application of the law for persons with disabilities;
- Sample Notification;
- Information for employers;
- Press release.

Annually, the National Action Plan for Employment (NAPE) includes projects, programs and measures for the employment of unemployed persons, mainly from disadvantaged groups in the labor market, one of which is the unemployed persons with permanent disabilities. They can participate without restrictions in the organization of work on the primary labor

market, in all programs and measures for training and employment by EPA, as well as in projects under OP HRD, provided that they meet the requirements for inclusion in the program, incentive measure or project.

The Employment Agency implements incentive regimes under the EPA for socio-economic integration, providing equal opportunities for unemployed persons with disabilities.

The National Program for Employment and Training of Persons with Permanent Disabilities, aimed at increasing the employability and employment of unemployed persons with permanent disabilities registered in employment offices or who have successfully completed a course of treatment for drug addiction of persons of working age, such as a prerequisite for overcoming their social isolation and for their full integration into society. Priority is given to persons with and over 71% reduced working capacity; military invalids; persons with sensory disabilities; persons with mental disabilities. The target group of the program are also unemployed persons of working age, who have successfully passed a course of treatment for drug addiction, registered in the labor offices.

Employers create jobs under the Program for a period of 24 months, with priority given to those who have concluded a financing agreement for providing access to jobs, as well as for adaptation and / or equipment of jobs for persons with disabilities.

From the measures for promotion of employment, aimed at unemployed persons with disabilities, the EA implements:

- art. 36, para. 2 of the EPA for encouraging employers to hire unemployed persons up to 29 years of age with permanent disabilities, including military invalids, as well as young people from specialized institutions or using social services in the community of resident type, who have completed their education.

- art. 52, para 1 of the EPA for encouraging the employers to open jobs for hiring unemployed persons with permanent disabilities. The measure shall take the form of a State aid scheme for the employment of disabled workers, subject to the

requirements of Regulation (EU) № 651/2014 and EU regulations amending, supplementing or replacing it. The new measure is also suitable for employers looking for labor for the production of agricultural products, fisheries and aquaculture, who until now could not receive funding through employment programs and measures implemented by the EA due to the limitations arising from the scope of Regulation (EU) № 1407/2013. The subsidy, which is granted for financing under art. 51, para. 2 of the EPA is for not less than 3 and not more than 12 months, providing amounts of up to 75 percent of the eligible costs for the subsidy period.

- art. 52 of the EPA for encouraging employers to hire unemployed persons with permanently reduced working capacity for full-time or part-time work.

Employment Agency, in its capacity as a specific beneficiary under procedures for providing grants under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development" 2014 - 2020, implements a number of projects related to providing employment opportunities for unemployed persons, including persons with permanent disabilities to improve their skills and their integration into the labor market.

In this regard, the implementation of the **project "New Opportunity for Youth Employment"** under the procedure "Youth Employment" under the HRD OP continues.

The aim of the project is to increase the competitiveness of young people (including young persons with disabilities) by providing opportunities for internships or on-the-job training, which will facilitate the transition from education to employment and at the same time lead to the accumulation of valuable professional experience in them, necessary for filling vacancies requested by employers.

The opportunities provided by the project are:

- Providing an internship with an employer for young people with mentors appointed by him (according to the requirements of the contract with conditions for internship under Art. 233a, Art. 233b and Art. 233c of the Labor Code), lasting 6 months.
- Providing on-the-job training with an employer for young people with mentors appointed by him (according to the requirements of the contract with on-the-job training conditions according to Art. 230, Art. 231, Art. 232 and Art. 233 of the Labor Code lasting up to 6 months.
- Providing funds for the costs of remuneration of mentors appointed by the employer, who will be responsible for in-service training of the trained representatives of the target group.
- Provision of funds for expenses in real amount for transport to and from the workplace for the first month of the internship / training during work of the employed young people, according to § 1, item 4 of the Additional Provisions of the Employment Promotion Act .
- Providing incentives for employers in case they conclude a permanent employment contract with a trainee / trainee youth to hold a position corresponding to the trainee's qualification - covering the employer's expenses for social and health insurance of the employee for a period of 6 months from the beginning of the indefinite contract.

Employers can apply for vacancies for young people with registration in the Labor Office Directorate throughout the country, until the financial resources are exhausted. The received applications are processed in the order of their submission. At the moment, the acceptance of applications of employers for announcing vacancies under the project continues, and in the selection of unemployed persons, unemployed persons with permanent disabilities are also directed.

In addition, young people can visit the Labor Office Directorates throughout the country, where they will also receive detailed information and be able to apply for inclusion in the specific program, incentive measure or scheme, provided that they meet the requirements.

The term for realization of the project is until the end of 2023.

In particular, the projects “Training and employment for young people” - **Component II** and “Training and employment” - Component II are aimed at this target group - unemployed persons with permanent disabilities.

The projects "Training and Employment" and "Training and Employment for Young People" are implemented in two components. At present, all active employment contracts are implemented under **Component II** of the projects.

The goal of Component II of the two projects, which started on 15.08.2018, is the integration of inactive and unemployed people with permanent disabilities up to the age of 29, incl. under the project "Training and employment for young people" and over 29 years - under the project "Training and employment", registered in the Labor Office Directorate at the Employment Agency, in employment with an employer in the real sector or local government institutions through training tailored to the individual needs of the workplace, employment subsidy (up to 24 months) and one-time incentive for sustainable employment (only for employers who provided 24 months of subsidized employment and 6 months of non-subsidized sustainable employment).

The launch of Component II under both projects is linked to the objectives of the “National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2016 - 2020” and Art. 27 “Employment” of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The vision and goals of the National Strategy are: creating conditions for full integration of persons with disabilities in the normal economic and social life of our country; ensuring long-term employment of unemployed persons with permanent disabilities of working age in order to overcome their social isolation; creating preconditions for leading an independent life by people with disabilities.

The goals set before the National Strategy are:

- Ensuring long-term employment of unemployed persons with permanent disabilities of working age in order to overcome their social isolation and their full integration into society;
- Creating preconditions for leading an independent life by persons with disabilities;
- Achieving effective social inclusion of persons with disabilities through their realization on the free labor market.

Article 29, paragraph 62: The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation and bring it into line with the provisions of Articles 12 and 29 of the Convention, allowing all older persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote. and to participate in elections. It also recommends that the State party prepare election information in accessible formats, including the Easy Read format, and allocate financial and technical resources to improve the physical accessibility of polling stations.

Implementation The Bulgarian Identity Documents Directorate - Ministry of Interior and locally in the Regional Directorates of Interior has established an organization for accepting applications for issuance of ID cards / passports at the request of disadvantaged persons, through site visits with a mobile biometric station.

According to Art. 37 of the Electoral Code, in Section VI "List for voting with a mobile ballot box", voters with permanent disabilities who do not allow them to exercise their right to vote in the polling station, but wish to vote with a mobile ballot box, declare their desire at the latest than 14 days before the election day in writing by application form, signed by hand and submitted by an authorized person or sent by mail, fax or by electronic application through the website of the municipal administrations in the settlements at the permanent address or at this address.

Voters with permanent disabilities who are not allowed to exercise their right to vote in the polling station and wish to vote with a mobile ballot box, but have not submitted an application in time, may vote with a mobile ballot box if they declare

this no later than 5 days before the election day and provided that a mobile sectional election commission has been appointed on the territory of the settlement.

The application shall indicate the names of the voter, his / her unique civil number (personal number), the permanent address (address of residence) or the current address, when a request has been made under Art. 36, and a copy of a document of the Territorial expert medical commission (TEMC (National expert medical commission (NEMC)) shall be attached.

The names of the voter who made a request under para. 1 or 2, shall be deleted from the electoral list and shall be entered by the body under art. 23, para. 1 in a voting list with a mobile ballot box.

Article 30, paragraph 64: The Committee encourages the State party to ratify in due time the Treaty of Marrakesh to facilitate access to published material for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise legibly impaired.

Implementation: The conditions agreed in the Treaty of Marrakesh are fulfilled by the Bulgarian state. It is part of our legislation. The Treaty was ratified by the EU on 30.04.2014 and approved by Decision 2018/254 of 15.02.2018, the EU has adopted Regulation (EU) 2017/1563 and Directive (EU) 2017/1564 in relation to the Treaty. The Republic of Bulgaria applies the Regulation insofar as it is a legislative act with direct effect on the territory of the Member States and transposes the Directive with the adoption of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, published in the State Gazette, no. 94, dated 13.11.2018.

- Specific obligations (art. 31-33)

Article 32, paragraph 70: The Committee recommends that the State party include representative organizations of persons with disabilities in international cooperation programs and adopt a mechanism to incorporate the human rights

model for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the provisions of The Convention in all efforts aimed at achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development goals.

Implementation: The nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities are included in the international cooperation programs. In addition to being members of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, they take an active part in various working groups set up at national level, in which projects and / or amendments to normative acts, plans, programs, strategies and other documents are prepared, considered and approved / adopted.

The nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, as well as their employers' organizations are members of the Monitoring Committee (MC) under the operational programs of Bulgaria.

There is no restriction on the participation of organizations of and for persons with disabilities in international cooperation programs. A number of organizations of and for persons with disabilities with recognized national representation are members of various international organizations working on issues of persons with disabilities. In this regard, in order to encourage participation in such initiatives, as well as in order to promote activities in support of the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, the state provides annual financial support for activities of organizations of and persons with disabilities with recognized national representation in the form of subsidy from the state budget. Part of the subsidies is spent on activities related to commitments at European and international level or membership in international organizations. Some of them also participate and / or implement projects with European funding. Examples:

NASO - a member of the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities E (EASPD); participate in the D-CARE project, which is implemented under the Danube Transnational Cooperation Program;

Union of the Blind in Bulgaria - members of the World Blind Union; European Blind Union ; The European Disability Forum; The Balkan Council of National Blind Organizations; International Braille Chess Federation.

The Association of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (APHIC) is a member of the European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (FEPEDA).

Art. 33, paragraph 72: Taking into account the Guidelines on Independent Monitoring and Participation in the Work of the Committee (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party establish an independent monitoring mechanism that is fully in line with the Paris Principles, such as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination. It further calls on the State party to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in this independent mechanism, in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 (2) of the Convention, including the provision of adequate funding for their full and effective participation in the process. of monitoring.

Implementation: In 2019, an important step was taken in building the institutional framework for the implementation of the CRPD - the Monitoring Council was established. The Monitoring Board, established in accordance with the requirements of Art. 33, para. 2 and 3 of the CRPD, is a monitoring body for the implementation of the Convention. The structure, powers, main activities and the procedure for electing the members of the Council are regulated in the PDA and the regulations for its implementation, and the rules for its work are adopted by the Council itself. In 2019, a procedure was held for the election of members - representatives of organizations for persons with disabilities, and on July 8, 2019, its first meeting was held, chaired by the Ombudsman, who is also its first rotating chairman.

During the preparation of the draft Persons with Disabilities Act, in force since January 1, 2019, the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Bulgarian state of September 21, 2018 are complied with and the legislation provides for the establishment of Monitoring Board.

In the provisions between Art. 11 - 15 and § 14 and § 15 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the PDA regulate the composition, organization and activity of the Council. (For more detailed information see the implementation of Recommendation № 17).

<p>2. Paragraph 10 of the Recommendations</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation in order to bring it into line with the human rights model for persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party remove any derogatory terminology concerning persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychological disabilities and, in consultation with the representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop policies and assessment procedures that are in line with the model for the rights of persons with disabilities. for persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the Convention.</p>	<p>Subsequent changes in the Ordinance on medical expertise and the Rules for the structure and organization of work of the bodies of medical expertise and the regional files for medical expertise in order to bring more fully in line the assessment of medical expertise with the needs of persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p>2026</p>
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<p>3. Paragraph 14 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with General Comment № 7 (2018) of the Committee on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention: (a) Strengthening and implementing formal mechanisms for effective and meaningful consultation of persons with disabilities on the implementation of the Convention, through their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, organizations of children with disabilities and organizations of families of persons with disabilities , in their supporting role;</p>	<p>Continuation of the cooperation between the state, determined by the Council of Ministers, nationally representative organizations of persons with disabilities, nationally representative organizations for persons with disabilities, nationally representative organizations of employees, nationally representative organizations of employers and the National Association of Municipalities in Bulgaria. Strengthening and expanding the active participation of organizations of and for persons with disabilities in the processes of developing and amending legislation regulating their rights as full members of civil society.</p>	<p>Council of Ministers; Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities; interested parties; Ombudsman; Commission for Protection against Discrimination and others.</p>	<p>Permanent</p>
<p>4. Paragraph 14 of the Recommendations letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) Ensuring ongoing funding for organizations of persons with disabilities and transparent criteria and consultation mechanisms, including information in Easy Read and other readable formats for all persons with disabilities;</p>	<p>Ensuring financial support, in the form of a subsidy, from the state for the activities of organizations of and for persons with disabilities with recognized national representation.</p> <p>Creating new and maintaining established consultation mechanisms, including through Easy Read and other readable formats for all persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Council of Ministers; Ministry of Finance ; Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.</p> <p>Nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, Ombudsman, Commission for Protection against Discrimination and other representative</p>	<p>Permanent</p>

			organizations of persons with disabilities.	
3. Paragraph 14 of the Recommendations letter "c"	(c) provide disability organizations with information and timetables on the consultation process on envisaged reforms aimed at changing disability certification, the definition of working capacity and the right to retire, in line with the human rights model for persons with disabilities .	Continuation of the policy for exchange of information and active participation of the nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities in the process of consultations on the envisaged reforms for changing the disability certificate, the determination of working capacity and the right to retirement.	Council of Ministers; Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Ministry of health; nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, etc. stakeholders	Permanent
B	Specific rights (Articles 5-30)			
Equality and prohibiton on discrimination (art. 5)				

<p>5. Paragraph 16 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>The Committee notes with concern that, under current legislation, the denial of reasonable facilities is not explicitly recognized as an act of prohibited discrimination in all areas of life. He is also concerned about the lack of applicability of the decisions issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on equality and non-discrimination, as well as the insufficient application of the provisions of the legislation on multiple and cross-sectoral discrimination and manifestations of aggravated discrimination. The Committee is also concerned about the barriers faced by persons with disabilities seeking access to justice in cases of discrimination.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with General Comment № 6 (2018) of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:</p> <p>(a) to amend the legislation and to explicitly prohibit in all spheres of life the refusal to provide reasonable facilities as an act of discrimination on the grounds of disability;</p>	<p>Preparation of changes in the legislation, which would lead to a complete prohibition on the refusal to provide reasonable facilities for persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life.</p>	<p>Government bodies, nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Until 2026</p>
<p>Women with disabilities (art. 6)</p>				

<p>6. Paragraph 18 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>The Committee is concerned about:</p> <p>(a) the insufficient implementation of measures to combat cross-sectoral forms of discrimination based on gender-based violence and the ill-treatment of women and girls with disabilities;</p> <p>The Committee, in accordance with its General Comment № 3 (2016) on Women and Girls with Disabilities, and taking into account Objectives 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) to step up efforts and take effective measures to combat cross-sectoral discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, and the violence and harassment they experience, working in close cooperation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities;</p>	<p>Develop a concept for measures to address cross-sectoral discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and the violence and harassment they experience.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Commission for Protection against Discrimination, Agency for People with Disabilities, Agency for Social Assistance, in partnership with all ministries, nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>2023</p>
<p>7. Paragraph 18 of the Recommendations, letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) To take effective measures, in close cooperation with organizations of women with disabilities, aimed at implementing the disability aspect in all specific gender-specific policies and legislation and to implement the gender aspect in all specific policies and legislation related to gender mainstreaming;</p>	<p>Gender and disability measures should be included in national plans to promote equality between women and men</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Ministry of justice; Ministry of interior; Agency for People with Disabilities, Agency for Social Assistance and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Until the end of 2026</p>
<p>Children with disabilities (art. 7)</p>				
<p>8. Paragraph 20 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) To ensure the full deinstitutionalization of girls and boys with disabilities and their right to live in a safe family environment,</p>	<p>With a view to the finalization of the process of deinstitutionalization of child care, measures will continue to be implemented with a focus on:</p> <p>- closure of the remaining specialized institutions for children, with the exception of the homes for</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Ministry of Health; Ministry of finance; State</p>	<p>2025</p>

	<p>including in foster care;</p>	<p>medical and social care for children in Varna, Kardzhali, Pleven and Stara Zagora, which will continue to operate until 31.12.2021;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - early childhood development and early intervention, prevention and reintegration; - prevention of the reproduction of the institutional model of care; - increasing the quality and efficiency of the network of social services to support children and their families; - integrated support and integrated cross-sectoral services; - strengthening the capacity of the child protection system. <p>Removal of all children placed in residential care in the 12 Homes for medical and social care for children. Closure of the 12 Homes for medical and social care for children. Opening up new services to support children and their families with a focus on children with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of 25 Centers for complex services for children with disabilities and chronic diseases - CCSCDCD / 3 have already been opened / in each area, as well as - opening of 26 integrated health and social services for residential care for children with disabilities and the need for permanent medical care. care for children with high-risk behavior. 	<p>Agency for Child Protection; Agency for Social Assistance; Municipalities; Non-government organizations</p>	
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<p>9. Paragraph 20 of the Recommendations, letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) increase the resources allocated to the development of a network of services supporting the inclusion of local communities and the empowerment of families with children with disabilities, in accordance with the Committee's General Comment № 5 (2017) on independent living and inclusion in the community;</p>	<p>Implementation of the planned measures and activities related to the development of a network of services supporting the inclusion in the local communities and the empowerment of the families with children with disabilities.</p> <p>Continuation of support for children and families, including families raising children with permanent disabilities in accordance with current national legislation in the social sphere.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Ministry of Health; Ministry of finance; State Agency for Child Protection; Agency for Social Assistance; Municipalities; Non-government organizations</p> <p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Agency for Social Assistance</p>	<p>2027</p> <p>Permanent</p>
<p>10. Paragraph 20 of the Recommendations, letter "c"</p>	<p>(c) raising awareness, strengthening the capacity and accountability mechanisms at the municipal level for implementation and financial support for the inclusion of children with disabilities in the community;</p>	<p>Strengthening the capacity and accountability mechanisms at the municipal level for implementation and financial support for the inclusion of children with disabilities in the community</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Agency for Social Assistance, municipalities, nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, etc.</p>	<p>2026</p>
<p>Accessibility (Article 9)</p>				

<p>11. Paragraph 24 of the Recommendations, letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) to increase its efforts to work towards the establishment of a barrier-free environment in the country, including in remote and rural areas;</p>	<p>Continue efforts to work to create a barrier-free environment in the country, including in remote and rural areas;</p> <p>Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas for the new one programming period 2021 - 2027 as a tool for sustainable socio-economic development of rural areas.</p>	<p>Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, municipalities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, municipalities and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Until 2026</p>
<p>12. Paragraph 24 of the Recommendations, letter "c"</p>	<p>(c) speed up the process of ensuring fully accessible public transport and services to the public, including through the application of monitoring mechanisms in the private and public sectors, sanctions and public procurement procedures;</p>	<p>Preparation and implementation of measures and activities through which to continue the efforts to ensure fully accessible transport and public services for persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>State and local authorities, nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, etc.</p>	<p>Until 2026</p>
<p>13. Paragraph 24 of the Recommendations, letter "d"</p>	<p>(d) intensify efforts to make information and communication, including ICT, fully accessible to all persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Creating conditions for achieving full accessibility of information and communications, including Information and Communication Technologies.</p>	<p>State Agency for Electronic Government, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of</p>	<p>2025</p>

			education and science and all stakeholders.	
Right to life (Article 10)				
14. Paragraph 26 of the Recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective measures to prosecute and punish perpetrators and to ensure the right to life of children and persons with disabilities, especially those who are still institutionalized.	Carrying out control of the provision and monitoring of the quality of social services at all levels provided by law, namely - at the level of providers, municipalities, the Agency for Quality of Social Services, international, European and national organizations.	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Providers of social services, municipalities, Agency for the quality of social services, prosecutor's office	Permanent
Risk situations and humanitarian disasters (Article 11)				
15. Paragraph 28 of the Recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party provide access to information on risk situations, including through sign language, in electronic format, in Braille and in Easy Read format throughout the country, including in remote and rural areas.	Providing access to information on risk situations, including through sign language, in electronic format, in Braille and in Easy Read format throughout the country, including in remote and rural areas.	State and local authorities, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, local and national media.	2026
Equality under the law (art. 12)				
16. Paragraph 30 of the recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation and adopt the Law on Individuals and Support Measures and confirm and recognize the full legal personality of all persons with disabilities, regardless of the guidelines of General Comment № 1 (2014) of Commission Equality before the law. It also	Carrying out an analysis on the constitutionality of the draft Law on Individuals and the support measures, the envisaged abolition of the institution of placement under guardianship and the exercise of active and passive suffrage of persons placed under guardianship, on which the decision to take specific steps depends : finalization of the bill in its current form or preparation of a new bill in	Ministry of justice with the assistance of Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of health, other agencies,	According to the constitutionality of the bill.

	recommends that the State party establish procedures for decision-making in support, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, and ensure continuous training under Art. 12 of the Convention for the various stakeholders, including members of the judiciary, health care professionals and social workers.	accordance with the institute of interdiction in accordance with the current Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria.	nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.	
Access to justice (art. 13)				
17. Paragraph 32 of the Recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the availability of sign language interpreters and documents in accessible formats, such as Braille, electronic format and Easy Read, for all persons with disabilities in all judicial and administrative proceedings.	Expanding the network of Regional Counseling Centers.	National Legal Aid Bureau	Permanent Until 2026
		Development and adoption of the Bulgarian Sign Language Act, which regulates the right to a free translation service.	All stakeholders	2021
Freedom and security of the person (art. 14)				
18. Paragraph 34 of the recommendations	The Committee calls on the State party to amend its Social Assistance Act and to abolish the provisions allowing for compulsory institutionalization, taking into account the instructions of the Committee on the Right to Freedom and Security of Persons with Disabilities (see Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), disabilities, Appendix № 55 (A / 72/55), Annex I).	Implementation of control by the Agency for Quality of Social Services (AQSS). The use of residential care by persons placed under full incapacity is regulated in the Social services act (SSA). Special rules are also regulated, including the rule that the provision of social services to an adult placed under guardianship and the termination of their use is in accordance with the wishes of the person and the opinion of his guardian or trustee, and in case of conflict of the person in need of social service. AQSS monitors compliance with the requirements of the law and regulations adopted in its implementation, the activities of social service providers, municipalities, territorial structures of ASA and other bodies, as well as verifies compliance with the rights of users	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Agency for Quality of Social Services	Permanent

		of social services.		
Protection from torture or cruel, inhuman or humiliating treatment or punishment (art. 15)				
19. Paragraph 36 of the Recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party prevent further mistreatment of persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities in institutions, and ensure that persons subjected to mistreatment have access to opportunities to complain, as well as subjected to torture and mistreatment should be entitled to compensation and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.	Carrying out strict control of the provision and monitoring of the quality of social services at all levels, provided for in the SSA, in order to prevent further mistreatment of people with disabilities using social services.	Providers of social services, municipalities, Agency for Quality of Social Services, prosecutor's office	Permanent
		Improving access to social, health and legal services for persons with disabilities and in particular women with disabilities who are in conflict with the law.	Directorate General for the Execution of Judgment to Ministry of justice, Ministry of interior, Ministry of education and science and other stakeholders.	Permanent

Protection against exploitation, violence and harassment (Article 16)				
20. Paragraph 38 of the Recommendations, letter "a"	The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) to collect details of persons with disabilities, in particular women, girls and boys with disabilities and persons still housed in institutions exposed to violence.	Collection and generation of data on persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities and persons placed in institutions exposed to violence.	Agency for social assistance, Agency for Quality of Social Services, municipalities, social service providers	Permanent
21. Paragraph 38 of the Recommendations, letter "b"	(b) To provide human, technical and financial resources to improve access to shelters and to provide rehabilitation services to women and girls with disabilities exposed to gender-based violence;	Increasing the number of accessible rehabilitation services for women and girls with disabilities exposed to gender-based violence, as well as developing and improving the quality of providing support and rehabilitation services that provide highly specialized support due to identified risk or to satisfy of a specific need.	Agency for Quality of Social Services, social service providers, etc.	Permanent
22. Paragraph 38 of the Recommendations, letter "c"	(c) to intensify efforts to protect all persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and harassment, including through effective investigations into all cases of alleged use of violence and harassment, and to set up working groups giving priority to the prosecution of cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and the conviction of perpetrators;	Efforts to: - Legislation and application of heavier penalties for mental violence; - Building a common minimum standard of competence of all structures in the fields of European and national legislation, recognizing and knowing the phenomena of "domestic violence" and "gender-based violence", providing a clear mechanism of interaction and algorithm of action, so to ensure their effectiveness; - Need to deepen the expertise of specialists from all institutions through additional training and supervision; - Improving the awareness of experts about the possible resources to support victims; - More social services for victims of domestic violence in each region; - Engaging all stakeholders with a common policy for early prevention, prevention in the family, school, workplace, etc., which is meaningful and shared and advocated by experts and politicians.	Ministry of justice and other stakeholders.	Until 2026

Independent living and inclusion in the community (art. 19)				
<p>23. Paragraph 40 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>In accordance with General Comment № 5 (2017) on independent living and inclusion in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) significantly speed up the transition process by ensuring that all persons with disabilities living in some form of institution, including psychiatric hospitals and small groups in the community, have the right and opportunity to live independently in the community, paying special attention to attention to persons with psychological disabilities, intellectual disabilities, children with disabilities and the elderly with disabilities;</p>	<p>Development of an Action Plan for the period 2022-2027 for implementation of the National Strategy for Long-Term Care;</p> <p>Implementation of the Action Plan, which aims to implement the second stage of the process of deinstitutionalization of care for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Interventions are aimed at ensuring equal access to services, including long-term care and improving the quality and scope of social services provided, introducing integrated approaches to the provision of social services, and developing integrated support and integrated health services. social services.</p>	<p>To develop an Action Plan – government expert working group;</p> <p>To implement the Action Plan – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of finance, Ministry of health, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Agency for social assistance, Non - government organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2027</p>
<p>24. Paragraph 40 of the Recommendations, letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) To increase resources for the development of personalized support services for persons with disabilities, regardless of type or age. These services should include partner support and personal assistance;</p>	<p>Development, adoption and implementation of an Action Plan for the period 2022-2027 for implementation of the National Strategy for Long-Term Care, which will set specific measures, activities, funding, responsible institutions and organizations, as well as deadlines for implementation.</p>	<p>To implement the Action Plan – Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of finance, Ministry of health, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Agency for social</p>	<p>2027</p>

			assistance, Non - government organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders.	
25. Paragraph 40 of the Recommendations, letter "c"	(c) Adopt legislation on individualized and self-managed personal assistance and social and support services, recognizing the right to independent living and inclusion in the community as a subjective right of all persons with disabilities, regardless of their disability and the level of support required;	Improving the legislation to ensure the ability of persons with disabilities to actively and responsibly choose and manage the process of using personal assistance, social and support services, which will allow him to lead an independent and dignified life in his chosen community	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Municipalities, in their capacity as providers of social services and the personal assistance mechanism, all stakeholders	Permanent
26. Paragraph 40 of the Recommendations, letter "e"	e) To use national and international financial resources from the European Union to accelerate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and to introduce effective means of protection and guidance to avoid spending national and international funds on infrastructure, housing and / or services that are not accessible and acceptable to all persons with disabilities.	Continuation of the implementation of the process of deinstitutionalization of care for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities as provided in the Updated Action Plan for implementation of the National Strategy "Vision for the deinstitutionalization of children in the Republic of Bulgaria" and the Action Plan for 2018-2021 to implement the National Strategy for Long - Term Care.	The responsible institutions and organizations envisaged in both plans	The deadlines provided for in both plans
Personal mobility (Article 20)				

<p>27. Paragraph 42 of the Recommendations</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to increase personal mobility and allow persons with disabilities access to technical mobility aids, devices, equipment and medical devices that are accessible and / or free of charge, including by increasing the funds for them.</p>	<p>Improving and expanding the scope of the current National Program for Affordable Housing and Personal Mobility.</p> <p>Adoption of normative changes in connection with the transition of the provision of aids, devices, equipment and medical devices for persons with disabilities from the social to the health system.</p> <p>In connection with the implementation of the recommendation in the draft National Plan for Recovery and Sustainability in the part Social Inclusion, among the measures in support of the most vulnerable groups is the project "Personal mobility and accessibility for persons with permanent disabilities" with implementation period 2021-2024 d. The aim of the project is to promote activities to ensure personal mobility and accessibility for persons with permanent disabilities for their social inclusion, taking into account their specific needs.</p> <p>It is planned to provide innovative, modern, high-quality and high-tech technical aids, incl. appropriate computer configuration; specialized software programs; electronic technical means for compensating for sensory deficits, adapted technical and medical devices and others, according to the specific needs, as well as providing aids for creating an accessible environment related to mobility and free movement.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, municipalities and stakeholders</p> <p>Ministry of health, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy</p> <p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy</p>	<p>Until 2026</p> <p>2024 r.</p>
<p>Freedom of expression and opinion and access to information (art. 21)</p>				

<p>28. Paragraph 44 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party: a) to officially recognize the Bulgarian Sign Language by adopting and implementing the Law on the Bulgarian Sign Language;</p>	<p>A draft law has been developed. The adoption of the Law on the Bulgarian Sign Language is forthcoming.</p>	<p>Ministry of education and science, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>29. Paragraph 44 of the Recommendations, letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) adopt measures to provide information in Easy Read format and strengthen efforts and organizations that already support and use Easy Read and other accessible formats;</p>	<p>Increasing the number of nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities that provide information in Easy Read format and other accessible formats.</p>	<p>Nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities and all stakeholders</p>	<p>Until 2026</p>
<p>30. Paragraph 44 of the Recommendations, letter "c"</p>	<p>(c) adopt measures for the gradual implementation of EU Directive 2016/2102 on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies in order to ensure full accessibility of websites.</p>	<p>Application of the requirements of Directive (EU) 2016/2102, transposed in the Electronic Government Act (amended and supplemented, SG No. 94 of 29.11.2019) and in the Ordinance on the general requirements for information systems, registers and electronic administrative services (amended and supplemented, SG No. 4 of 14.01.2020), as well as the Methodology for monitoring and checking the accessibility of the content of websites and mobile applications.</p>	<p>State Agency for Electronic Government</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>Respect for home and family (art. 23)</p>				
<p>31. Paragraph 46 of the Recommendations</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party increase its human, technical and financial resources at national and local level to provide primary support services for children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party include organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of children with disabilities, in the implementation of</p>	<p>Creating a sustainable policy to increase human, technical and financial resources at national and local level to provide primary support services for children with disabilities.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, municipalities, Agency for Social Assistance (Social Assistance</p>	<p>2023</p>

	support services.	Opening of 25 Centers for comprehensive services for children with disabilities and chronic diseases - CCSCDCD and opening of 26 integrated health and social services for residential care for children with disabilities and the need for permanent medical care and for children with high-risk behavior.	Directorates) organizations of and for persons with disabilities and other stakeholders. Ministry of health	2026
32. Paragraph 48 of the Recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Family Code and remove any restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities of the age of marriage to marry.	Amendment of the Family Code in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the transitional and final provisions of the draft Law on Individuals and support measures.	Ministry of justice with the assistance of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and others departments and non-government organizations.	According to the constitutionality of the bill.
Education (art. 24)				
33. Paragraph 50 of the Recommendations, letter "a"	The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with General Comment № 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education: (a) completely replace the practice of segregated systems with quality inclusive education;	Development of the new functions of the special schools, aimed at supporting the inclusion of children and students with sensory disabilities in the system of pre-school and school education	Ministry of education and science	2023

<p>34. Paragraph 50 of the Recommendations, letter "b"</p>	<p>(b) to raise awareness and promote the benefits of quality inclusive education for society, especially among teachers and other educational staff, among parents of children without disabilities;</p>	<p>Expanding the range of pedagogical specialists who have passed qualification forms for increasing the competencies in conditions of inclusive education.</p>	<p>Ministry of education and science</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>35. Paragraph 50 of the Recommendations, letter "c"</p>	<p>(c) to intensify efforts to provide inclusive education and to provide reasonable facilities for students with disabilities in general education schools, including by increasing the systematic and sufficient provision of the necessary human, technical and financial resources to do so;</p>	<p>Implementation of the National Program "Creating an accessible architectural environment and security at school"; Implementation of the program № 1700.01.02 "Facilitation of access to education, which aims to: - Organizing and carrying out trainings of experts from RWB, principals and pedagogical specialists, incl. psychologists, speech therapists, resource teachers, in the implementation of priority policies related to inclusive education and support for personal development of children and students. - Organizing and coordinating activities for conducting trainings for principals and pedagogical specialists from special schools and centers for special educational support. Under the project "Education for Tomorrow" under Operational program „Cscience and education for smart growth“ (OP CESG) for special schools for students with sensory impairments - hearing impairment and impaired vision, provides for the provision of assistive technologies: FM systems, reading cameras, vision control systems and others.</p>	<p>Ministry of education and science</p>	<p>Until 2026</p>
<p>36. Paragraph 50 of the Recommendations, letter "d"</p>	<p>(d) collect data on the number of children and young persons with disabilities who are not currently enrolled in any form of education, are not disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, place of residence and develop a strategy for the inclusion of these children in primary education system.</p>	<p>Development of a mechanism for collecting data on the number of children and young persons with special educational needs subject to compulsory pre-school and school education who are not enrolled in any form of education</p>	<p>Ministry of education and science</p>	<p>2022</p>

Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)				
<p>37. Paragraph 56 of the Recommendations</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party adopt habilitation and rehabilitation programs targeting all persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of disability, gender, social sex or age. It also recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities participate reasonably in habilitation services and that draft programs be developed in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Development of habilitation programs to meet the needs of persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Ministry of health, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of education and science, Social service providers, organizations of and for persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>2023</p>
Work and employment (Article 27)				

<p>38. Paragraph 58 of the Recommendations, letter "a"</p>	<p>(a) Adopt a policy framework and strategy to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labor market, including by increasing the resources allocated to it, in order to facilitate the transition from the protected market to the open labor market;</p>	<p>Activities aimed at people with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the number of electronic services for jobseekers; • providing specialized labor mediation for persons with disabilities, incl. remote; • development of the new services of the Employment Agency: “Consultation and mentoring after starting work” and “Family labor consultant” • expanding the scope of application of the Standardized package of services for persons with permanent disabilities • modernization of the adult education system through the development and introduction of new forms of education, incl. for persons with disabilities; • expanding the scope of application of the Personal Profile of TRL by using the resources of "My Competence" and others. measures and joint programs and initiatives. 	<p>Employment Agency</p>	<p>2026</p>
<p>Appropriate standard of living and social protection (Article 28)</p>				
<p>39. Paragraph 60 of the Recommendations</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the State party revise the criteria for assessing the degree of disability, incorporating the human rights model of persons with disabilities in the assessment process and ensuring that persons with disabilities have an adequate standard of living. The Committee further calls on the State party to intensify its efforts to enable all persons with disabilities to meet their additional disability costs, including by increasing the resources allocated to this end.</p>	<p>Reforming the medical expertise and the expertise of the working capacity.</p>	<p>Ministry of health, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and stakeholders</p>	<p>2026</p>

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (Article 30)				
40. Paragraph 66 of the Recommendations	The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities.	<p>Involvement of persons with disabilities in sports activities such as conducting sports activities in their free time and participation in sports events from the state sports calendars.</p> <p>Providing opportunities for participation of athletes with disabilities in international championships and competitions and ensuring the process of sports training and recovery.</p>	Ministry of culture , Ministry of Youth and Sports, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, sports organizations and other stakeholders Sports organizations	2026
C.	Specific obligations (Articles 31-33)			
Statistics and data collection (Article 31)				
41. Paragraph 68 of the Recommendations, letter "a"	The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by a general objective (Goal) 17, in particular a specific objective (Target) 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals in its efforts to establish a systematic set of data and reporting procedures for the National Statistical Office. institute, in accordance with the Convention, and: (a) Take into account the Washington Group's "Disability Summary" to gather information on the situation of persons with disabilities and obstacles to the exercise of their rights;	<p>Conducting:</p> <p>1. The studies that could provide a systematic set of data and reporting procedures are in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Force - Labor Force Survey (LFS) • Income and living conditions - Survey on income and living conditions (EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions - EU-SILC) • Health - European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) • Education and Training - Adult Education Survey (AES) • Use of information and communication technologies - Use of ICT in households (ICT usage in household and by individuals) • Use of time - time budget • Consumption - Monitoring of household 	National statistical institute; national social security institute; National Center for Public Health; Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (Agency for People with Disabilities, agency for social assistance, Employment Agency, General Labor Inspectorate, Social Protection	Until 2026

		budgets	Fund other stakeholders.)	
42. Paragraph 68 of the Recommendations, letter "b"	(b) Take measures to increase the availability of quality, timely and reliable detailed data by ensuring the active participation and close cooperation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and planning stages of data collection activities;	The surveys and data collection are carried out in implementation of separate European regulations, where their specifics are defined, both in terms of methodological features and their periodicity from the first year for which the data will be collected. With regard to the inclusion of the Washington Group's "Disability Summary" to collect information on the situation of persons with disabilities and obstacles to the exercise of their rights, it should be borne in mind that these issues are part of the research toolkit. of the "European Health Interview" - a specialized study of the health status of the population.	National statistical institute	2026
43. Paragraph 68 of the Recommendations, letter "c"	(c) Develop evidence-based policies that are appropriate to the situation of persons with disabilities, in close and close cooperation with their representative organizations.	Continuation of the process of improving the policies for persons with disabilities, by integrating the available information from the various information systems, with a view to making full use of the available information resources in assessing the effectiveness of the policies for persons with disabilities, and for making managerial and policy decisions. their improvement based on an integrated approach, analysis and monitoring.	All stakeholders	Permanent