

EUROPEAN YEAR OF PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES



## EUROPEAN DECLARATION ART, CULTURE, MEDIA AND DISABILITY

For equal opportunities of people with  
disabilities in the access to the arts,  
culture and media.

# EUROPEAN DECLARATION ART, CULTURE, MEDIA AND DISABILITY

### EUCREA INTERNATIONAL

Coordination : Marcus Zeim  
115, rue de Ménilmontant  
F- 75020 Paris

Tel. : 0033/(0)1/47.97.87.26

Fax. : 0033/(0)1/47.97.27.83

e-mail : [eucrea.international@wanadoo.fr](mailto:eucrea.international@wanadoo.fr)

Internet: [www.eucrea-international.org](http://www.eucrea-international.org)

Eucrea International is founding member of the  
European disability forum

Registered office : 32 Square Ambiorix B.47 – B 1040  
Bruxelles, Belgium / Belgium



Ten years after United Nations General Assembly in 1993 adopted the Resolution 48/96 regarding the right of accessibility for disabled people to cultural activities, most (considering all disabilities, all ages) are still not able to access the arts, cultural heritage, artistic creation and media. Several studies and reports confirm this reality, but also stress the existence of pilot activities and innovating measures to enhance accessibility to culture within specialised and cultural institutions, associations, local and territorial communities and states. The evaluation of these positive steps and experiences has led to the "European Declaration Art, Culture, Media and Disability"

The objectives of the "European Declaration Art, Culture, Media and Disability" are the following :

- to give a framework and overview of appropriate solutions, methodological guidelines and principles in developing access to the fields of art, culture and media.

- to increase public awareness, to rally, to concentrate the forces and resources to promote equal opportunities for disabled people in the areas of the arts, culture and media.

Furthermore, the Declaration establishes a basis for the creation of a European directive to handle universal accessibility to art, culture and media for all.

A committee of promotion on both national and european levels, including representatives and organisations of all sectors concerned with the arts, culture, media and disability will be set up to assure the promotion and application of the Declaration. EUCREA International reviews and makes a yearly assessment of the signatory commitment and developments.

Local, regional, national and international authorities, organisations representing disabled people, parents of disabled people, media, professionals and so on – all principal actors and stakeholders are appealed to mobilize for equal opportunities for disabled people in the fields of the arts, culture and media. You are welcome to support the declaration, to promote and to circulate it across all levels of society, during and after 2003, the European Year of People with disabilities.

*Equal opportunity regarding accessibility to the arts, culture and media is part of the fundamental rights outlined in various conventions, international resolutions, European Treaties and national legislations. We assert that it is one of the fundamental values of European identity, according to the European social model of solidarity. On the occasion of the European Year of Disabled People 2003, we stand behind the enforcement of this right.*

Declaration coordination committee : EUCREA international - c/o Cemaforre -  
115 rue de Ménilmontant - 75020 Paris - France

Tél. 0033-(0)1.47.97.87.26 - Fax. 0033-(0)1.47.97.27.83 - E-mail: [eucrea.international@wanadoo.fr](mailto:eucrea.international@wanadoo.fr)  
Declaration website : [www.eucrea-international.org](http://www.eucrea-international.org)

## Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Resolution-48/96 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly the 20 December 1993

### rule 10

"States will ensure that persons with disabilities are integrated into and can participate in cultural activities on an equal basis.

1. States should ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of their community, be they in urban or rural areas. Examples of such activities are dance, music, literature, theatre, plastic arts, painting and sculpture. Particularly in developing countries, emphasis should be placed on traditional and contemporary art forms, such as puppetry, recitation and story-telling.

2. States should promote the accessibility to and availability of places for cultural performances and services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas and libraries, to persons with disabilities.

3. States should initiate the development and use of special technical arrangements to make literature, films and theatre accessible to persons with disabilities."

### Art. 13 of the EU treaty

"Without prejudice to the other provisions of the Treaty and within the limits of the powers conferred by it upon the Community, the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation".

# European Declaration Art, Culture, Media & Disability



2003, European Year of People with disabilities, 10th anniversary of the UN 48/96 resolution

**We, representatives to the European Union, its Member States, territorial communities, professionals in the arts, cultural, media, health-care and social/medical sectors, NGO and association representatives, European citizens and the signatories of the present Declaration**

> consider access to cultural activity as an inalienable right, inherent to all human beings. > assert that equal opportunity in the access to cultural activity, art works, cultural heritage and artistic practices is one of the values of European identity

" A society that shuts out a number of its members is an impoverished society. Actions to improve conditions for disabled people will lead to the design of a flexible world for all. " (The Madrid Declaration, 2002)

**In order to provide equality of access to art, culture and media to over 50 million European citizens with disabilities, we commit ourselves - within the scope of our responsibilities and capacities - to disseminate the Declaration widely across all levels of society, to encourage its endorsement and to carry out the items outlined :**

- **Consideration of the specific needs of disabled people in measures for all in the areas of art, culture and media**
- **Carrying out studies**
  - regarding the needs of disabled people, of all ages and all type of disabilities, living in a health centre or at home
  - regarding cultural policies and strategies (good practices, legislation, funding, professions, accessibility to cultural venues and programmes)
- **Making cultural venues and programmes accessible to all disabled people**

(Decisions regarding accessibility for disabled people should be taken into consideration at the earliest stages of all planning processes)

  - **Access to the built environment and equipment** (free mobility for people in wheel-chairs, clear signage, induction loops, audio descriptions, etc. )
  - **Access to art works, cultural events and activities** (specialized teaching, adapted activities and technical aids : visits to sites in sign language; dance classes for wheelchair users and performances ; booklets in Braille, large fonts and 'crystal clear' language including relief maps and illustrations ; computer assisted music and drawing activities with technical assistance, etc.)
- **Development of services to improve the accessibility to artistic practices and culture for disabled people**
  - **Information on cultural accessibility offered** (conceived with the appropriate supports according to the different types of disabilities)
  - **Ancillary services for cultural activities** (for the access to art works, events and artistic practice)
  - **In-home cultural activity services** (delivery of books, videos, cd-roms, tools to paint, to compose and to play music, artist visits, etc. )
- **Establishment of measures, plans of action and instruments to implement inclusive cultural policies**
  - **Consultation and decision-making bodies** facilitating the networking within the cultural, media, healthcare and social-medical sectors (within the European Union, States, regions, towns, institutions, etc.)
  - **Plans of action to launch and run cultural policies for disabled people** (within the European Union, States, regions, towns, institutions, etc.)
  - **Financial plans of action and right to compensation** (specific budget lines in the framework of general financial action programmes; support funds for experimentation and innovation, etc.)
  - **Supporting measures to encourage the development of inclusive artistic activities**
  - **Development of resource centres** for information, networking, training, research, technical aids on accessibility, new technologies, consultancy assistance to aid project leaders and policy makers
  - **Obligations for project planning of institutions for the integration of disabled people in cultural life**, within cultural, healthcare and social-medical sectors (planning, charter of action, referral persons, etc. )
  - **Training for volunteers, professionals and the creation of new jobs in all relevant sectors**
- **Professional integration of disabled people within art, cultural and media professions** (development of measures to enhance access to teaching, training, employment and assistance in the delivery of products; equal protection of intellectual property)
- **Measures for media accessibility** (quotas for subtitles, translation in sign language, audio descriptions, etc.)

If you would like to adhere to present Declaration and wish to officially give your support, please contact the Coordination Committee.:  
EUCREA International c/o Cemaforre - 115, rue de Ménilmontant - 75020 Paris - France  
Tel. 0033-(0)1.47.97.87.26 - Fax. 0033-(0)1.47.97.27.83 - E-mail: [eucrea.international@wanadoo.fr](mailto:eucrea.international@wanadoo.fr)  
Your contribution will be published on the Internet site of EUCREA International : <http://www.eucrea-international.org>

EUCREA International is a NGO for the promotion of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the areas of art, culture and media. Founding member of the European Disability forum. Registered office : 32 Square Ambiorix - B.47 - B-1040 - Bruxelles