

Policy Brief

Advancing Disability-Inclusive Implementation of the EU Armenia CEPA

The Issue

Despite Armenia’s commitments under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the needs and rights of persons with disabilities remain under-addressed in policy design, implementation, and monitoring. Disability issues are often treated in isolation, with limited integration into broader CEPA reforms in areas such as poverty reduction, employment, participation, and corporate social responsibility.

Purpose of the Research

This policy brief is based on a comprehensive monitoring study conducted in early 2025 assessing Armenia’s implementation of CEPA Articles 84 to 88. The objective was to evaluate whether and how disability rights are integrated into CEPA-related reforms and to develop actionable recommendations for more inclusive implementation. The study combined legal and policy analysis, government data requests, and consultations with stakeholders.

Key Findings

- Disability is rarely addressed in CEPA-related reforms unless the policy is specifically focused on disability. Most general reforms (e.g., employment or poverty reduction strategies) lack inclusive approaches or disability-specific provisions.
- Armenia has no mechanism to assess whether CEPA-aligned reforms are consistent with the CRPD or national disability legislation. This leads to policy incoherence and implementation gaps.
- Data on persons with disabilities is limited and fragmented. There is no coordinated system for collecting, disaggregating, and using disability-related data to inform CEPA implementation.
- Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are not consistently included in policy discussions or CEPA-related platforms. Even when consultations on reforms occur, recommendations are often not reflected in final decisions.

Recommendations

1. Ensure that all CEPA-related reforms, whether directly related to disability or not, include disability impact assessments during both planning and evaluation phases.
2. Introduce a permanent policy review mechanism to check the compatibility of CEPA legal reforms with CRPD standards and Armenia’s Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
3. Establish a national system for collecting and using data disaggregated by disability, gender, age, and region, applying tools like the Washington Group Short Set.



4. Institutionalize the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in CEPA policy design, consultations, and monitoring structures. Include diverse groups such as refugees with disabilities, children, and individuals with psychosocial disabilities.

Conclusion

Disability inclusion must become a cross-cutting priority in Armenia’s CEPA implementation. Without clear standards, inclusive processes, and reliable data, reforms risk reinforcing existing inequalities. These recommendations aim to ensure that CEPA becomes a true driver of equality and social inclusion in Armenia.

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