

Advocacy brief

Advancing disability-inclusive implementation of the EU Armenia CEPA

In the beginning of 2025, an independent expert conducted a monitoring assessment of Armenia’s implementation of Articles 84 to 88 of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the European Union, focusing on how disability rights are considered. The assessment was based on legal analysis, government data requests, and consultations with stakeholders, covering four key areas: poverty, employment, participation, and corporate social responsibility.

Key Recommendations

- Ensure that disability inclusion is considered in all CEPA-related reforms, whether or not the topic is directly about disability, by conducting disability impact assessments both ex ante and ex post for any major reform.
- Create a system to regularly check that CEPA-related legal reforms match the CRPD and Armenia’s Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. If they do not, make changes to fix these gaps through amendments or clear explanations.
- Set up a national system to collect and use data that is broken down by disability, age, gender, and region. Use internationally accepted tools like the Washington Group Questions to make sure the data is useful for policymaking.
- Make sure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are included from the start in CEPA-related decisions. This means real participation in working groups, consultations, and follow-up actions, especially for those from underrepresented groups like refugees, children, and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Why This Matters

Although Armenia has made formal commitments under CEPA and the CRPD, disability inclusion is often left out of policies and decisions. Without good data, real participation, and proper checks on reforms, people with disabilities continue to face barriers to work, services, and decision-making. These gaps weaken Armenia’s efforts to meet its obligations and limit the impact of CEPA reforms.

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