



What happened at our event



Easy Read

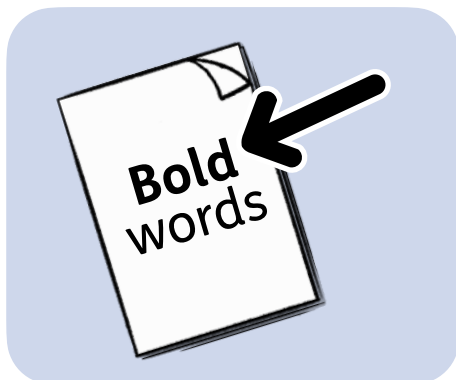


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

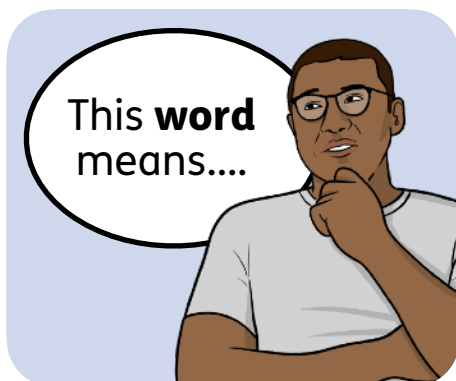
It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this booklet

About this booklet	4
The European Commission	5
What the event was about.....	6
How we worked.....	8
What happened at the event	12
What young people with disabilities think.....	17
What happened next	28

About this booklet



We are the European Commission.



On 19 and 20 March 2026, we ran an event in Brussels.



The event was about the **rights** of young people with disabilities in Europe.

We will explain what **rights** are on page 6.



This booklet is about what happened at the event and what we learned.

The European Commission



The **EU** stands for the **European Union**.

It is a group of countries in Europe that work together.



The **European Commission** is a part of the EU. It makes rules and decisions.



About 27 million people in the EU aged between 16 and 29 have a disability.



We want to support them to live good lives.

What the event was about



The event was about the **rights** of young people with disabilities.



Rights are things that every person should have by law.

Like the right to be safe, the right to learn and the right to be respected.



We want to make sure that everyone respects the rights of young people with disabilities.



We are writing a plan called the **Enhanced EU Disability Strategy**.

This plan will help EU countries to respect the rights of people with disabilities.



We wanted to make sure that young people's ideas are part of the plan.

We ran this event so that young people could tell us what they think.



20 young people with different disabilities from 13 different EU countries came to the event.

How we worked



We made sure that everyone could take part in the event.



We made sure that places were easy to get to.



We gave people information in ways they could understand, like sign language and braille.



We had a quiet room where people could take a break.



We supported people to talk about what they wanted to.



People could take part in ways that suited them, not just by talking a lot.

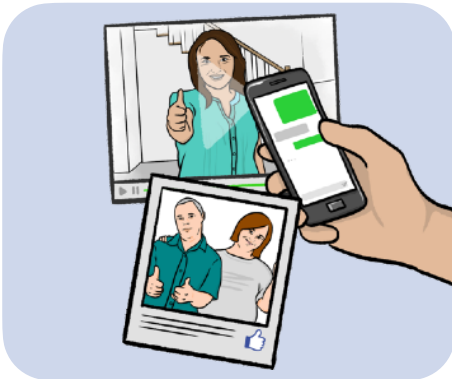


We helped everyone to feel safe and could say what they wanted to.



We respected what people had learned from their own lives.

Social media



3 influencers joined the event.

Influencers are people who have a lot of followers on social media, like Instagram and TikTok.

They were:

- Sarah Talbi.

Sarah is an artist who paints with her feet. She shares her daily life and her artwork.



- Charlotte from Enzo and Charlotte.

Enzo and Charlotte are a brother and sister from France.

They share their daily lives and tell people about autism.



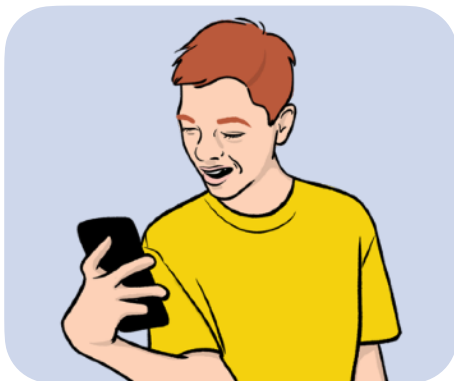


Olivia Lori Iglesias also joined us.

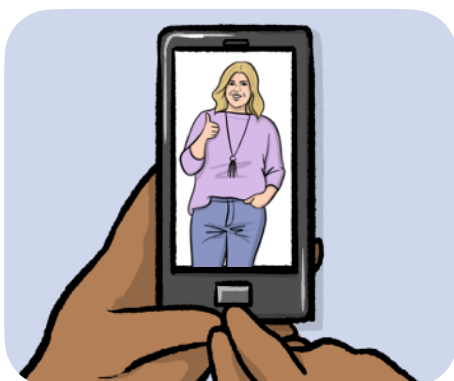
Olivia shares information about the EU and disabilities that is easy to understand.



The influencers helped us to share what we were doing.



Over a million people saw what they posted on social media.



We also shared videos on the European Commission's social media.

What happened at the event



Before the main event, we had a meeting online on 13 March 2026.



This was the first time everyone met.



We shared information about the main event that everyone could understand.



Then, people chose the 4 main topics they wanted to talk about at the event.

The event



The event was at the Brussels Comics' Art Museum.



It was run by Sophie-Anne Onland and Jochem Joordan.



The event happened over 3 days.



On the first day, everyone arrived and had dinner.

The second day



In the morning, everyone visited the European Commission and met Commissioner Lahbib.

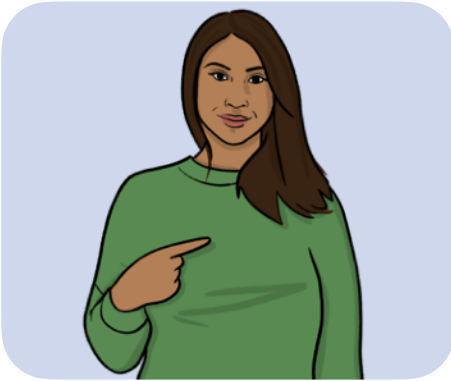


In the afternoon, Ana Carla Pereira talked about what it is like for people with disabilities in the EU.



Then people worked in groups on the 4 topics they had chosen.

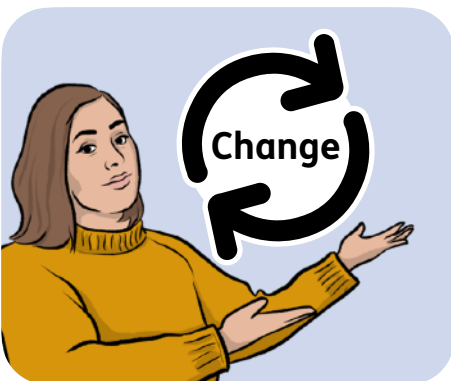
They thought about:



- Their **experience**. This means what has happened in their lives.



- **Barriers**. These are things that stop people from having their rights respected.



- What the EU could do to change these barriers and make people's lives better.



Then, they shared their ideas with each other.

The third day



Everyone visited the Comics' Art Museum to learn about the history of comic books in Belgium.



Then, Commissioner Lahbib spoke to them.

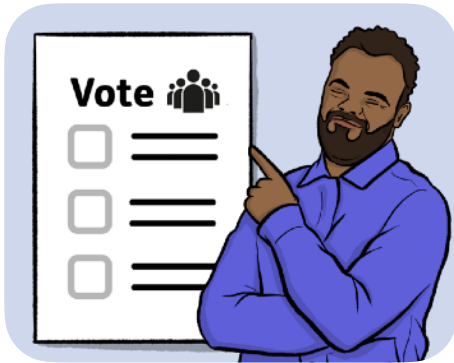


Each group talked about their ideas from the day before.



Then everyone talked about all of the topics and how they felt about the event.

What young people with disabilities think



The topics we talked about were:

- Getting involved in politics.



- Learning.



- Work and jobs.



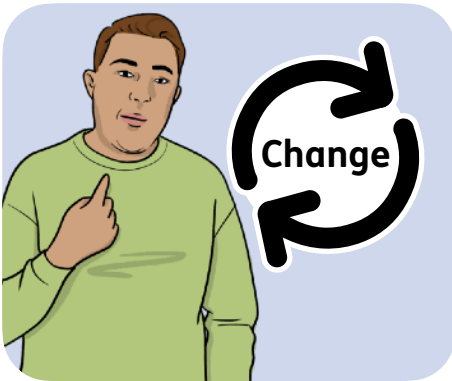
- Accessibility.

Getting involved in politics



Politics is about how a country is run and the decisions that are made in that country.

It is very important that people with disabilities can get involved in politics.



If they do, they can help to make real changes to people's lives.



But there are a lot of problems that stop young people from getting involved in politics.



People had ideas about how to help young people get involved with politics:



- Governments should do more to find out what people with disabilities think about politics.



- The European Commission should make sure everyone can understand the information it gives out.



- Different parts of the EU can share ideas on how to include people with disabilities.

People also said:

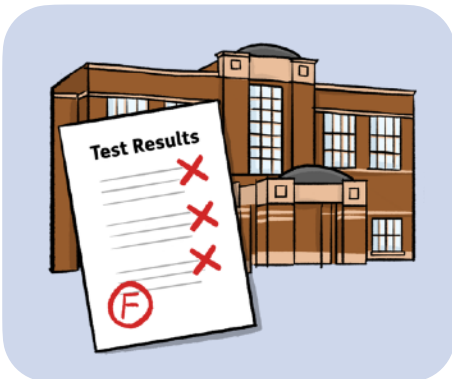


- The European Commission should listen to young people when it decides how to support people with disabilities.



- People in politics should learn more about how to support people with disabilities.

Learning



Many young people with disabilities leave school when they are still young.



And they are less likely than others to go to college or university.



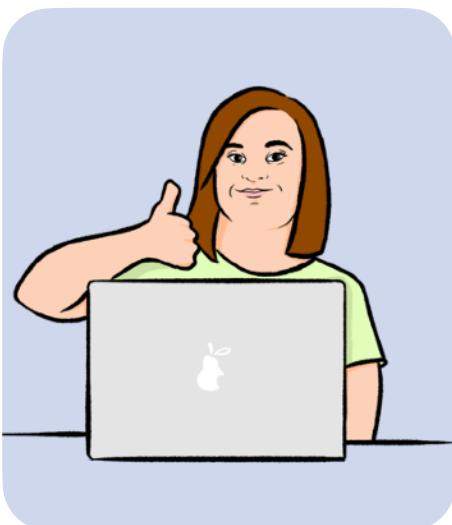
People had ideas for how to make learning better for young people with disabilities:



- All universities across Europe should follow the same rules to include everyone.



- Universities should get more money to pay for extra support for students with disabilities.



- European law should make sure that all computer programmes that students use to learn are **accessible**.

Accessible means that everyone can use them.

People also said:



- The European Commission should check that all the companies it works with are accessible.



- The EU should help to check that universities and schools are accessible.

Work and jobs



Young people with disabilities find it hard to get good jobs.



Companies and workplaces are often not accessible.



Companies think that it costs them more to hire people with disabilities.



People with intellectual disabilities often find it extra hard to get a job.



It can be hard when people with disabilities move to a new country.



They often do not know if they will keep getting support.



People had ideas for how to make work and jobs better for young people with disabilities:



- The European Commission could help people with disabilities get support at work.



- The EU could make it easier for people to keep getting support when they move to a new country.



- The EU could hire more staff with disabilities.



People with disabilities should be able to work without losing support from the government.

Accessibility



Accessibility is all about making sure that everyone can use places and services.



People with disabilities need places like train stations and hospitals to be accessible.



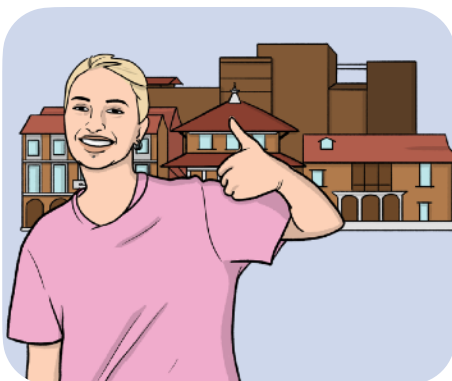
People get care from family and friends.



But family and friends often have not had training to support people in the right way.



People had ideas for how to make accessibility better for young people with disabilities:



- EU countries should make cities more accessible for people with disabilities.

People also said:



- Family and friends should get training and support when they care for people.



- Governments should always ask people with disabilities what they think.



- EU countries should make sure that doctors do not give people with disabilities medicine they do not need.

What happened next



The Commission organised another online meeting after the youth dialogue on 22 May 2026.



At this meeting, we talked about the **Enhanced EU Disability Strategy**.



We will keep listening to what young people with disabilities think.

What did you think of this Easy Read booklet?



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think: www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

This Easy Read booklet was produced by easy-read-online.co.uk
The booklet includes images licensed from Shutterstock.