

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002430/25
to the Commission
Ioan-Rareş Bogdan (PPE)
(17 June 2025)

Subject: Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development and regulation of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies

The rapid development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies bring significant opportunities for innovation, including in the field of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities. However, these developments also present serious risks, including digital exclusion, algorithmic discrimination and a lack of accessibility in AI-powered services. Moreover, many AI systems lack the necessary safeguards to ensure non-discrimination, accessibility and transparency for persons with disabilities.

1. How is the Commission ensuring the active involvement of persons with disabilities and organisations representing them in the development, deployment and oversight of AI and emerging technologies?
2. What concrete measures are being taken to ensure that AI systems, including those developed or deployed by public authorities, are accessible and do not perpetuate bias or discrimination against persons with disabilities?
3. Are there plans to dedicate specific EU funding or innovation programmes to supporting inclusive, accessible AI that empowers persons with disabilities?

Submitted: 17.6.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2025)

The Commission is committed to ensuring that the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies are inclusive and accessible to all, including persons with disabilities.

It recognises the significant opportunities that these technologies can offer, while acknowledging the risks, such as algorithmic discrimination.

To address these concerns, the Commission is taking concrete measures to ensure that AI systems, including those used by public authorities, are accessible and free from bias against persons with disabilities.

The EU funded AEQUITAS ⁽¹⁾ project developed a Multi-Stakeholder Approach to AI Fairness (MAP) involving underrepresented and discriminated groups in the design and development of AI systems, and the Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment for Fairness (FRIA-F), that specifically evaluates risks to fundamental rights such as non-discrimination (Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ⁽²⁾) and integration of persons with disabilities (Article 26 of the Charter ⁽³⁾).

Last but not least, the Commission supports inclusive, accessible AI that empowers underrepresented communities through EU funding programmes.

AEQUITAS is one of four Horizon Europe projects ⁽⁴⁾ that collaborate directly with advocacy groups and marginalised communities to tackle bias and discrimination in AI, while fostering inclusive AI solutions. Additional calls for proposals are published and are to be found from the Funding and Tender Portal ⁽⁵⁾.

In conclusion, the Commission remains committed to ensuring that development and deployment of AI and emerging technologies is inclusive and accessible to all, including persons with disabilities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.aequitas-project.eu/>.

⁽²⁾ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter/article/21-non-discrimination>.

⁽³⁾ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter/article/26-integration-persons-disabilities>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://aifairnesscluster.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate)

[Cluster 2 topic: 'Good practices for increased autonomy of persons with disabilities, including physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities' explicitly mentions AI \(HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-09: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-TRANSFO-09?isExactMatch=true&status=31094502&frameworkProgramme=43108390&callIdentifier=HORIZON-CL2-2025-01&order=ASC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=identifier\).](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate)