

EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Accessibility Act (Directive 2019/882)¹ applies since 28 June in Member States. It sets accessibility requirements for certain digitally relevant products and services of everyday use such as phones, computers, e-books, consumer banking services and electronic communications. It makes it easier for persons with disabilities to fully participate in society covering accessibility requirements for a wide range of disabilities. The Commission monitors its implementation across the EU.

Sustainable and equal access to healthcare is an area of action of the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030. With EU4Health² funding, the forthcoming guidelines on access to healthcare for persons with disabilities will pinpoint measures for Member States to improve the uptake of this right for persons with disabilities. The European Health Union also supports Member States in improving the resilience of their health systems by addressing barriers for persons with disabilities, taking account of the Commission initiative on Digital Transformation of Health and Care³.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) helps improve long-term care services, as highlighted in the Council Recommendation on long-term care⁴. As shown by the national reports on the implementation of the Recommendation⁵, ICT can improve access to quality and affordable care and support independent living, while overcoming territorial gaps in delivery. The European Care Strategy⁶ promotes scaling up the use of innovative technology and investments in ICT.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/882/oj/eng>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/assets/sante/health/funding/wp2022_en.pdf.

³ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ehealth>.

⁴ 2022/C 476/01 see at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOC_2022_476_R_0001.

⁵ See at:

https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?advSearchKey=Iltimprep&mode=advancedSubmit&catId=22&doc_submit=&policyArea=0&policyAreaSub=0&country=0&year=0&iframe=true.

⁶ A European Care Strategy: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_5169.