

EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 places the utmost importance on accessibility, assistive technologies and the provision of reasonable accommodation as enablers of rights and a prerequisite for the full participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

During the last decade, a number of EU rules have been adopted in different areas to make the EU more accessible for persons with disabilities and to support their cross-border mobility. The European Disability Card will give persons with disabilities legal certainty that their disability status will be recognised when accessing special conditions or preferential treatment offered by a wide variety of services, activities or facilities¹.

To support the implementation of the Strategy, the EU promotes the use of EU funding by the Member States, which can support schemes as the one referred to in the question. For instance, the Cohesion Fund or the European Regional Development Fund can support projects aimed at adapting built environments for better accessibility for persons with disabilities, or in transport, making mobility accessible for all passengers. The Commission and the Member States are required to take accessibility for persons with disabilities into account throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes². In addition, Member States can exchange good practices in the context of the Disability Platform.

The Commission also adopted the Notice Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding, to support Member States and stakeholders in promoting the rights to independent living.

¹ Directive 2024/2841, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202402841.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>, Article 9(3).