



Partnerships for Disability

Together towards a more inclusive Europe



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This publication reflects a summary and the main conclusions of the Evaluation of the Transnational Cooperation actions carried out by Fundación ONCE within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight Against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the European Social Fund. The evaluation was carried out by Ecorys España S.L. during 2014 and 2015.

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Forewords

The goal of moving towards a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe, as established by the Europe 2020 Strategy, brings up challenges for all stakeholders, public administrations, the business world and civil society, but also significant opportunities.

People with disabilities, their families and all entities that represent them, can and want to continue contributing actively to a growing and modern Europe that always keeps its best asset in mind: the people.

ONCE and its Foundation, which I have the honour to preside, are a relevant stakeholder in this movement towards a more inclusive and accessible Europe, defending and showing the active role that we, the people with disabilities, are playing. We are more than 80 million in the European Union and we want to continue being the owners of our destiny. Likewise, the experience of ILUNION, the group of social enterprises of ONCE and its Foundation, has consolidated in this first year as an example of how social and economic profitability can go hand in hand, creating a true shared value and social commitment.

We have maintained a solid partnership with the Spanish Government and the European Union for more than fifteen years now, by means of the management of two Operational Programmes of the European Social Fund, as a result of which more than 230,000 people with disabilities have been able to benefit from our employment programmes and more than 60,000 were able to find a job.

In addition to these social results, we made use of the opportunity provided by the European Union, to establish solid partnerships with other European stakeholders, not only entities representing disability in France and Greece, but also public administrations from other Member states, such as Poland and Italy, or large multinational companies like Telefónica in Spain and L'Oréal in France, in fields which are strategic for the improvement of accessibility, the professional qualification and the employment of people with disabilities, such as the Structural and Investment Funds, Inclusive Education and Corporate Social Responsibility.

The firm conviction that we may get there quicker by going alone, but much further if we go together, is what took us to establish these partnerships within the framework of the so-called Transnational Cooperation, as a result of which we have contributed to mainstreaming disability dimension in the European agendas, and to the consideration of the talent of people with disabilities as an asset that can not and should not be wasted.

These are, amongst others, the conclusions of this external evaluation, which boost us to consolidate and strengthen our partnerships in Europe in the new period of the European Funds that will run until 2023. These partnerships were able to bring together entities of very different natures to follow common goals.

I would not like to finish this foreword without thanking all of them for having joined our social commitment and for being our travel mates on this way towards a more inclusive Europe.

Miguel Carballada Piñeiro

President of ONCE and its Foundation

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the EU's main instrument to invest in people: to increase their skills and job opportunities, to promote social inclusion and support those groups who, for different reasons, are at disadvantage and need more help to participate fully and equally in society. These are common challenges and goals all across Europe, and therefore Member States can only win by joining forces.

Transnational cooperation is an area where the ESF can act as a catalyst. The potential for mutual learning in the field of employment, education and social policies is enormous. Cooperation across borders allows all partners to look beyond what is taken for granted in their respective countries, and to explore new ways of tackling a problem.

Already in the 2007-2013 programming period, the Commission promoted transnational cooperation, including by funding of 21 Transnational Learning Networks. These networks have facilitated the exchange and cooperation between ESF managing and implementing bodies, as well as strategic stakeholders. They have organised various activities, such as peer reviews, learning seminars, and other exchange events and tools.

In the new 2014-2020 period, a stronger emphasis has been put on transnational cooperation, which is now mandatory at Member State level except in duly justified cases. The Commission's facilitating role has also been enhanced, in particular by establishing an EU level platform to make cooperation with national authorities and stakeholders easier. Thematic Networks have taken up the work of the former Learning Networks and will continue to promote mutual learning throughout the whole ESF implementation chain. They also aim at bridging the gap between policy-makers and practitioners.

The transnational cooperation actions carried out by Fundación ONCE have highlighted the value of engaging with relevant stakeholders across borders in the field of disability. I therefore encourage you to keep investing in these activities in the upcoming years.

Marianne Thyssen

European Commissioner for Employment,
Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility



Miguel Carballeda Piñeiro, President of ONCE and its Fundación and Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, during her visit to ONCE, its Fundación and ILUNION in Madrid on March 12 2015.



Fundación ONCE

Fundación ONCE para la Cooperación e Inclusión Social de Personas con Discapacidad (Fundación ONCE for the Cooperation and the Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities, hereinafter referred to as Fundación ONCE) was created in 1988, following an agreement of the General Council of ONCE (Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles – The National Organisation of the Spanish Blind) as an instrument for cooperation and solidarity of blind people in Spain with other groups of people with disabilities for the improvement of their quality of life.

In addition to ONCE, as founding organisation, Fundación ONCE gathers in its highest government body, i.e. the foundation's board, the main organisations of people with disabilities and their families in Spain, as well as the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI), a platform that gathers more than 4.500 associations and entities that represent the 3.8 million people with disabilities in Spain.

The mission of Fundación ONCE is to contribute to the full social inclusion of people with disabilities, with the aim of implementing the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. In this context, Fundación ONCE works with two priority focuses: training and employment of people with disabilities and the universal accessibility of products, services and environments, all of it in order to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and cohesive society.

The main funding source of Fundación ONCE for each financial period is the 3% of the gross income from the commercialisation of ONCE's lottery games, an example of socially responsible gaming. The second source is the European Social Fund, through the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination (2000-2006 and 2007-2013) which became an essential pillar for the achievement and the success of the results, turning Fundación ONCE into a benchmark as regards the experience in favouring social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities, not only in Spain, but also in Europe.

Along the years, Fundación ONCE has expanded its activity, taking part in and leading projects abroad. The so-called "Transnational Cooperation", co-funded by the European Social Fund and developed within the framework of the mentioned Operational Programme, is a relevant example that gathers multiple experiences, the evaluation of which is the object of this publication.



The Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013

Fundación ONCE and the EU: A solid alliance

Fundación ONCE has successfully become a key partner and reference interlocutor in terms of European policies in the field of disability.

The foundation played an essential role contributing to the design and the implementation of the European Programmes that are co-funded by the Structural and Investment Funds, having been nominated and backed by the European Commission and by the Spanish national authorities as Intermediate Body of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination, which is co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), both for the period 2000-2006 and the period 2007-2013, which ends in 2015.

The Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013

The main goal of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the ESF, is the fight against gender discrimination and against the discrimination of certain groups which are being or are in risk of being excluded, promoting their social and labour inclusion.

Within the framework of this Operational Programme, Fundación ONCE, together with FSC Inserta as Beneficiary, is running the Programme XTalento, with the aim of attracting more people to the labour market, promoting employability, social inclusion and gender equality, focusing on people with disabilities.

Fundación ONCE and Transnational Cooperation

Within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, the Priority Axis 4 on Transnational Cooperation has the goal of favouring exchange, participation and transfer of best practices among different types of entities, as well as the integration of actions to propose multidimensional approaches that will help to give a response to the needs and challenges of the European Union.

In this context, Fundación ONCE has successfully become a reference actor in Transnational Cooperation, designing an ambitious initiative that includes the creation of three European Networks that, based on a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach. These networks have been working in order to strengthen the presence and inclusion of Disability in the European agendas.

Based on this structure, the actions of Fundación ONCE have allowed creating platforms and sustainable cooperation mechanisms between stakeholders from several EU Member States, generating exchange of information and best practices, the generation and transfer of knowledge, the encouragement of mutual learning, together promoting social innovation and actively contributing to political debate in the EU.

Methodological Approach of the Evaluation

Fundación ONCE, with its firm commitment to continuous improvement, requested for an external evaluation to analyse the performance of the Transnational Cooperation actions carried out under the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013 and to propose recommendations to improve the impact of this type of actions in the future.

Thus, the main purpose of the evaluation was to assess the development, usefulness, impact and European added value of the Transnational Cooperation actions, analysing, among others, the effects they had on strengthening the position of disability in the European agendas. The main focus of the evaluation were the three European Networks promoted by Fundación ONCE, as well as some other complementary Transnational Cooperation actions.

The evaluation provides also the opportunity to give visibility and improve the comprehension of the ef-

fects and benefits of the work carried out by means of Transnational Cooperation, thus becoming a useful and strategic management tool to serve as a guide for future actions.

Objectivity and participative approach of the Evaluation

The objectivity and accuracy of the evaluation were assured by means of an adequate combination and triangulation of primary and secondary research sources that allowed creating a complete vision of the field of action of the Transnational Cooperation carried out by Fundación ONCE, and reaching consistent, contrasted and evidenced conclusions. The participative approach and the close communication between the evaluation team (Ecorys) and the coordinating team (Fundación ONCE) were also key factors for the evaluation.

29 ENTITIES INVOLVED IN A PARTICIPATIVE EVALUATION PROCESS

- Administrative Unit of the European Social Fund (UAFSE), Ministry of Employment and Social Security, SPAIN
- Association des Paralysés de France (APF), FRANCE
- Association Française des Managers de la Diversité (AFMD), FRANCE
- Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE), UK
- European Commission, BELGIUM
- European Economic and Social Committee, BELGIUM
- Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI), SPAIN
- National Confederation of People with Disabilities, GREECE
- CSR Europe, BELGIUM
- Essl Foundation, AUSTRIA
- European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, BELGIUM
- European Disability Forum, BELGIUM
- Forética, SPAIN
- Fundación ONCE, SPAIN
- ICSR – Italian Centre for Social Responsibility, ITALY
- Inclusion Ireland, IRELAND
- Kanchi, IRELAND
- Kynnys ry, FINLAND
- L'Oréal, FRANCE
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, POLAND
- Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, ITALY
- European Parliament, BELGIUM
- PAU Education, SPAIN
- Reninco, ROMANIA
- Rytmus, CZECH REPUBLIC
- Sanofi, SPAIN
- Telefónica, SPAIN
- The Social Movers, SPAIN
- Weber Shandwick, SPAIN, BELGIUM

The Transnational Cooperation Networks led by Fundación ONCE

Within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the European Social Fund, which runs until 2015, Fundación ONCE has successfully become a reference actor developing an integral Transnational Cooperation strategy by means of the design, start-up and leadership of three Transnational Cooperation Networks and a series of complementary actions.

This strategy has been globally in line with reference policies and instruments, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the European 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.



csr+d The **European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR+D)** promotes the integration of disability into the political and CSR agendas with the aim of favouring the social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as contributing to the development of a responsible competitiveness of companies and public administrations. With a multi-stakeholder approach, the Network focuses its work on fields like sustainability reporting, employment, accessibility of goods, products and services, the role of public administrations in the promotion of CSR, as well as social innovation and social entrepreneurship. → www.csr-d.eu



incluD-ed The **European Network on Inclusive Education and Disability (incluD-ed)** is a collaborative, Europe-wide framework to advocate and work for the full inclusion of people with disabilities and to contribute to removing all kinds of barriers by means of the promotion of inclusive education. The aim is to promote equal opportunities within the educational context, with the final target of improving the employability and labour inclusion of people with disabilities. The Network focuses on secondary education, the participation in higher educational levels, the transition to adult life and the labour market and on new technologies. → www.includ-ed.eu



IN NET 16 The **European Observatory for Structural Funds and Disability (InNet16)** has the objective of analysing the implementation of the disability perspective in the framework of the Structural and Investment Funds. The Observatory offers news, opinions and reports which are of interest to professionals in the field and to the general public, as well as a repository of best practices that gathers projects and experiences which have given good results. The Network aims to become a link between public administrations, civil society and companies, with the objective of transmitting the importance of the disability perspective to decision-makers and contributing to its reinforcement through the European funding instruments. → www.innet16.eu

Who forms part of the Networks?

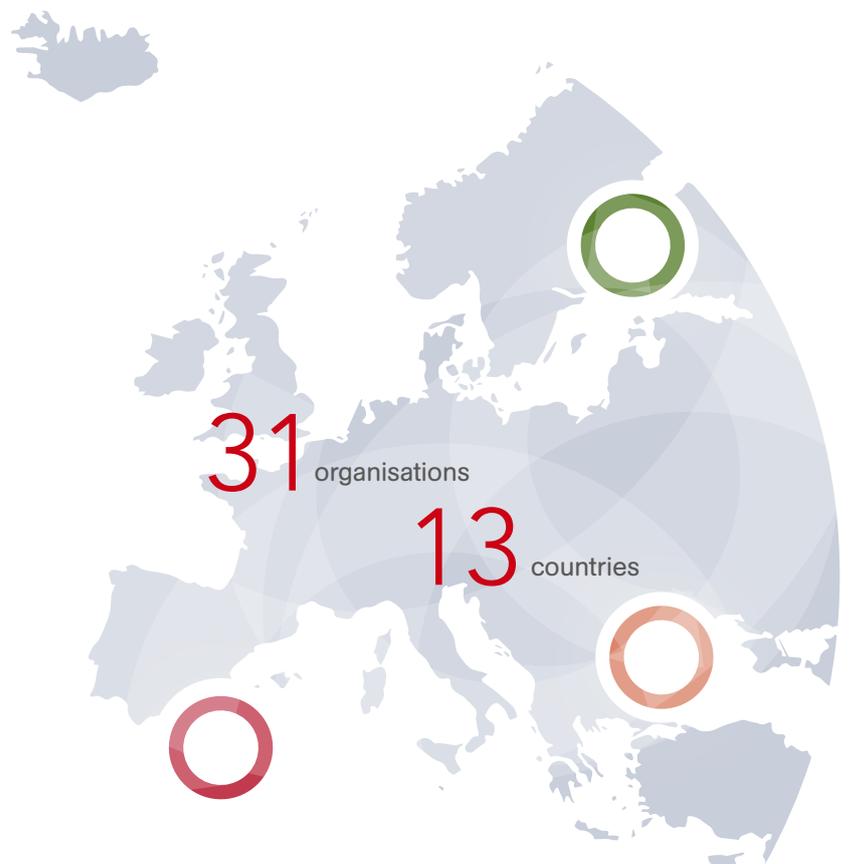
The European Networks led by Fundación ONCE have been created as **transnational and multi-stakeholder** initiatives that gather the participation of a large variety of stakeholders from different EU Member States, integrating the valuable formula of public-private partnerships. From the

beginning, the structure of the Networks has been growing and becoming stronger at a European level. Each of them has a Technical Secretariat, which is an essential element for their development, and they are made up of multiple public and private organisations that act as founding partners, associate members and collaborators.

The geographical scope of the Transnational Cooperation by Fundación ONCE includes:

31 organisations from 13 countries, 12 of which are EU Member States, including founding partners, associate members and collaborating entities: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and the UK.

The 9 founding partners of the Networks come from a total of 7 countries: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain.



Leader



Founding Partners



Telefonica, SPAIN



L'Oréal, FRANCE



Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, ITALY



Rytmus, CZECH REPUBLIC



Kynnys ry, FINLAND



Association des Paralysés de France (APF), FRANCE



Confederación Nacional de Personas con Discapacidad (EASAEA), GREECE



Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, POLAND



Conseil Français des Personnes Handicapées pour les Questions Européennes (CFHE), FRANCE

Associated and collaborating entities:

	<p>Association Française des Managers de la Diversité (AFMD), FRANCE</p>		<p>Forética, SPAIN</p>
	<p>Capgemini, SPAIN</p>		<p>Fundación Triodos, SPAIN</p>
	<p>Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE), UK</p>		<p>Government of Extremadura, SPAIN</p>
	<p>European Commission, BELGIUM</p>		<p>ICSR – Italian Centre for Social Responsibility, ITALY</p>
	<p>Ecodes, SPAIN</p>		<p>Inclusion Ireland, IRELAND</p>
	<p>EIDD – Design for All Europe, IRELAND</p>		<p>Kanchi, IRELAND</p>
	<p>Essl Foundation, AUSTRIA</p>		<p>Queraum, AUSTRIA</p>
	<p>European Disability Forum, BELGIUM</p>		<p>Reninco, ROMANIA</p>
	<p>Federazione Associazioni Nazionali Disabili (FAND), ITALY</p>		<p>Sanofi, SPAIN</p>
	<p>Fondation Internationale de la Recherche Appliquée sur le Handicap (FIRAH), FRANCE</p>		<p>Sodexo, FRANCE</p>
	<p>Federazione Italiana per il Superamento dell'Handicap (FISH), ITALY</p>		<p>University of Akurevri, ICELAND</p>

What are the achievements of the Transnational Cooperation promoted by Fundación ONCE?

The Transnational Cooperation led by Fundación ONCE within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), has the aim of mainstreaming disability in the agendas, both at European and national level, with a specific focus on the fields of Education, Corporate Social Responsibility and the Structural and Investment Funds, encouraging the exchange and transfer of information, knowledge, experiences and best practices, promoting mutual learning, the creation of a community and social innovation.

All of this is carried out with the final aim of contributing to social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities in Europe, maximizing the added value of the ESF, and spreading out the positive experiences generated in Spain, including the dissemination of the unique model of ONCE and its Foundation as a stakeholder of the Third Sector, the Social Economy and Disability.

Thus, the Transnational Cooperation actions and, in particular, the European Networks promoted by Fundación ONCE, have been growing since 2009 by means of a process of evolution, development and consolidation, extending the scope and nature of their activities.

A first period was focused on the design and conceptualization of the strategy and structure of the Networks. The mission and the targets were established, the founding partners were searched for and identified, the main working topics were defined and the respective activities were outlined and later developed in the following years. As an essential element, the three Networks, CSR+D, incluD-ed and InNet 16 count with Technical Secretariats that, under the coordination and leadership of Fundación ONCE, operate as pillars for all the activities carried out.

From 2011 onwards, and with the partnerships already established, the Networks reached cruise speed and expanded their activity. In general terms, it was possible to witness an incremental evolution in the intensiveness and the variety of the actions implemented.

Since 2014, the Networks have been maximising their visibility and impact, including the creation of sub-projects and specific initiatives, such as the European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability, which have contributed to the consolidation of the performance and the role of Fundación ONCE in the field of Transnational Cooperation.

On the following pages, you will find a selection of examples of outstanding actions carried out along the years, from 2009 to 2015, within the framework of Transnational Cooperation. These examples have been organised around five main types of activities:

1. Research and analysis



2. Exchange of experiences



3. Contribution to the design of public policies



4. Awards and recognitions



5. Communication and dissemination





1. Research and Analysis

Fundación ONCE has carried out intense research and analysis activity in the framework of the Transnational Cooperation actions performed by the Networks in their three fields of action: Corporate Social Responsibility, Inclusive Education and Structural and Investment Funds.

The result of this intense research and analysis activity are many tools, methodologies, publications and studies that place the knowledge developed by the Transnational Cooperation Networks at the forefront in their respective areas of action, both in Spain and in Europe.

This research activity has been carried out by means of an intense documentary review, which includes the main existing bibliographic references, as well as surveys, interviews and expert consultations, as well as the staging of and participation in meetings and workshops.

Examples of activities and outstanding achievements



Analysis of the inclusion of the disability dimension in the Corporate Social Responsibility Reports of European multinational companies

Based on the previous creation (in collaboration with companies and other entities) of a series of indicators aimed at evaluating and promoting the inclusion of disability in CSR or Sustainability Reports, an analysis was made concerning the situation of this type of reports in a series of European multinational companies.

The reports of 16 companies from different sectors were analysed, identifying best practices and areas of improvement for further mainstreaming disability in their strategies, with the aim of contributing with ideas and learnings to the general entrepreneurial community.



Definition of evaluation criteria for the identification of best practices in the field of inclusive education and disability

The incluD-ed Network has produced a series of criteria and indicators based on several variables, such as innovation, impact, transferability, sustainability, evaluation, large participation of stakeholders, and particularly of people with disabilities, which allowed identifying, evaluating and choosing best practices in the field of inclusive education in Europe. This selection was compiled in a Guide of Best Practices that includes examples from the home countries of the Network's founding partners, with the aim of recognising the positive experiences in inclusive education and serving as an inspiration for new practices and pilot actions. At the same time, these criteria have been the base of the compilation of best practices which have been published on the incluD-ed website, open for anyone interested.

Exploratory study on the quality factors of inclusive education in Europe

In 2015, the incluD-ed Network is developing an **exploratory study on the quality factors of inclusive education in Europe** with the aim of exploring the different elements that have an influence on the quality of the inclusion processes in schools in several European countries, considering aspects related to culture, policies and practices of educational centres, as well as other elements related to the available human and material resources.

It is a pilot study based on a questionnaire prepared by experts in the field of inclusive education, and with the participation of schools from the four home countries of the founding partners of incluD-ed (Spain, France, Finland and Czech Republic), as well as from Austria, UK, Ireland and Iceland, where the Network has associate members. The aim of this study is to establish a common and sustainable methodology for the future, to be able to compare the quality of inclusive education systems in Europe. The intention is to explore and set standards for the elements that schools should guarantee in order to assure the right to education of students with disabilities from an inclusive approach for all.



The study that will end in late 2015, has a large participation of stakeholders, such as the founding partners of the Network and several associate members, experts from universities in charge of the theory and analytical aspects of the work, as well as professionals from the participating educational centres.

Extract image of the questionnaire on quality factors for inclusive education in Europe.



Analysis of the Operational Programmes of the European Social Fund (ESF) for the period 2007-2013 as regards Disability

InNet 16 has developed a study with the aim of analysing how the Member States have responded to the needs of people with disabilities through the Operational Programmes of the European Social Fund (ESF) for the period 2007-2013. 98 national and regional Operational Programmes were evaluated, putting special emphasis on the priorities and the design of measures focused on people with disabilities, their indicators and the allocated funding. The result of the work done offered a panoramic view of the degree of recognition of disability in the different countries through the Structural Funds, and gave rise to a series of conclusions and recommendations for the new programming period.

Study on the consideration of articles 11 and 16 by the Managing Authorities of the ESF and ERDF

The InNet 16 Network carried out a survey aimed at managers, both of the ESF and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in different Member States on the application of Article 11 ("partnership principle" or implication in civil society) and Article 16 (principles of equality and non-discrimination) included in the General Regulation of Structural Funds (1083/2006). The study contributed to identifying trends about how disability and accessibility were being interpreted by the Managing Authorities and applied to the projects that were co-funded by these Funds. The study evidenced best practices and areas of difficulty giving rise to comparative conclusions.

Indicators for the measurement of the disability dimension in the Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020

Based on an analysis of different concepts and models designed to measure the results of the interventions developed during the period 2007-2013, InNet 16 has been working on a series of improvements to be included in the design of the cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020, from the perspective of disability. The analysis gave rise to indicator models with the potential to be used in national programmes to measure the impact of the interventions aimed at the social inclusion of people with disabilities.



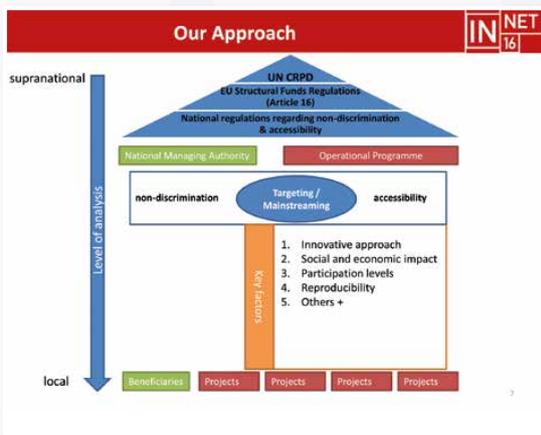
Study cases in the field of disability for their replicability in the Operational Programmes

Since its creation, InNet 16 has constantly been carrying out an intense work of analysis of the projects that have been implemented in the EU and funded by the European Funds, with the aim of identifying study cases as regards the implementation of Article 16 of the General Regulation of Structural Funds (1083/2006) – applicable to the programming period 2007-2013 – which serve as examples of best practices that can be reproduced in other Member States.

This has been made for projects implemented within the framework of the ESF and ERDF in different EU countries, which are outstanding due to their specific and horizontal measures in terms of disability, as well as due to their innovative elements in the field of accessibility and the involvement of the disability stakeholders in the execution cycle of the funds.

The study cases were prepared based on an own definition of “best practice”, taking the already mentioned Article 16 as pillar. Thus, the identified projects respond to the following criteria: innovative approach, social-economic impact, impact from the perspective of disability, and scalability index.

For this compilation of information and its analysis, it was necessary to identify the different managing authorities and intermediate bodies which are in charge of managing and implementing the ESF and ERDF in the different Member States, as well as other organisations, running projects funded by European Funds, which extended the target of the study through their perspective and experience.



Slide reflecting the InNet 16 analysis approach for the development of study cases.

These contacts did also help to continue with additional research lines in the framework of the observation scheme proposed by the Network. As a result of the close exchange and collaborative work with all of these entities, the InNet 16 Secretariat identified and made a deep analysis of “flagship” projects funded by the ESF and ERDF in those Member States. The comparative analysis of the results led to conclusions and recommendations at a European level, as well as to the identification of lessons learned that could be of interest for organisations representing people with disabilities. Moreover, the results of the observation were largely disseminated in different forums, conferences and meetings which were attended by the InNet 16 Observatory.

2. Exchange of experiences

The Transnational Cooperation of the European Social Fund (ESF) has a vocation to encourage mutual learning, with a central role of exchanging best practices, experiences and lessons learned, as well as the transfer of knowledge among stakeholders involved.

As regards the Transnational Cooperation led by Fundación ONCE within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, the exchanges of experiences carried out by the Network members and other organisations and experts considered as benchmarks in their different fields of action, have contributed to strengthening the bonds between the involved parties, encouraging common working. Thus, the Networks were able to achieve more dynamization and to extend the scope of influence of their respective working areas: Corporate Social Responsibility, Inclusive Education and Structural and Investment Funds.

In practice, this exchange has been implemented through different actions and instruments, such as the organisation of conferences, seminars, thematic workshops, meetings, working groups and study visits, open to the Network members, as well as to other relevant stakeholders.

Examples of activities and outstanding achievements



Institutional presentation of the European Network for CSR+D in Madrid

The institutional presentation of the European Network for CSR+D was held in April 2012 at a high-level event, with the participation of representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security, the European Commission, the founding partners of the Network, the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities

(CERMI), as well as of other relevant entities, such as CSR Europe, a platform that gathers more than ten thousand European companies. The event, which was attended by more than 200 representatives of companies, public administrations and social entities, served to formally introduce the Network, highlighting its role as relevant actor to contribute to the inclusion of disability in the CSR agendas and underlining the significance of the latter as an element to encourage the social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities in Europe.



Opening session of the CSR+D European Network institutional presentation celebrated on April 23 2012 in Madrid.

CSR+D Webinar with CSR Europe

After the institutional presentation of the CSR+D Network, a European-wide webinar was held in October 2012, in collaboration with CSR Europe. The webinar was used to disseminate the initiative and the main messages of the Network and to present the CSR+D indicators that had been developed in the previous year, as well as the preliminary results of the analysis about the inclusion of disability in the European corporate CSR reports that was being carried out. In addition to the participation of Fundación ONCE, another founding partner of the Network, Telefónica, presented its Disability Strategy and the inclusion of this dimension in business, sharing with participants the way in which they had included the CSR+D indicators in their sustainability report. This example served to inspire questions and generate debate among the more than twenty participating companies and organisations from different countries of the EU.

Workshops and seminars in collaboration with Business Schools

The European Network for CSR+D established a cooperation line with meaningful business schools in Spain, with the aim of creating meeting and discussion spaces to promote the role of disability in the heart of CSR agendas. To give a few examples, a workshop was held in Madrid, in September 2011, in collaboration with IE Business School on "CSR, Disability and Reporting". This workshop, which was attended by more than 30 participants from leader companies in their different sectors and by other entities, had the aim of debating and exchanging experiences, as well as contributing to the drawing-up of the already mentioned CSR+D indicators. Another outstanding example was the organisation of the seminar on "CSR, Social Innovation and Disability" in Barcelona, in July 2013, with the collaboration of ESADE, during which the connection between these three concepts in order to contribute to a competitive, sustainable and inclusive growth model was emphasized.

*Session of the Seminar
"CSR, Social Innovation
and Disability", celebrated
with ESADE Business
School in Barcelona on July
18 2013.*



Agora+D



The European Network for CSR+D set-off the **Agora+D platform**, an ambitious project born out of the idea of generating debate, raising awareness and promoting mutual learning through a space to exchange best practices of leading organisations both from the public and private sector, dealing with the integration of the disability dimension into their CSR, innovation and social entrepreneurship strategies.



Session of the Seminar "Private Money for Public Good? A multi-stakeholder approach to promote social innovation from a disability perspective", celebrated at the Philanthropy House in Brussels, on May 7 2015.

The initiative was launched in Brussels, in May 2015, within the framework of the seminar **"Private money for public good: a multi-stakeholder approach to promote social innovation from a disability perspective"**, which was held in the headquarters of the European Foundation Centre – EFC (Philanthropy House), co-organised by this entity and Fundación ONCE, together with the European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability. This Consortium is an initiative promoted by several foundations of the EFC, including Fundación ONCE, which acts as the leader.

The meeting, which was attended by around fifty European representatives from different sectors and organisations, counted on the intervention of representatives of the European Commission and the Belgian Government, as well as of other relevant entities such as CSR Europe or Essl Foundation, in addition to the organisers of the meeting, i.e. Fundación ONCE and EFC, and social entrepreneurs.

One of the first specific results of the Agora+D project was the publication in 2015 of **"Breaking down grant making silos: Disability as a cross-programme initiative"** which gathers significant initiatives from outstanding European and international foundations as best practices that provide an example for the strengthening of disability mainstreaming in their activities. The publication addresses different projects promoted by the foundation sector that integrate the disability dimension in different fields, such as labour, gender equality, childhood, environment, accessibility, culture, development or health.

Agora+D has a specific space on the website of the CSR+D Network which acts as a platform that gathers, based on specific selection criteria, a compilation of best practices related to the integration of the disability dimension into CSR, social innovation and social entrepreneurship, all of which have been developed by different stakeholders, such as companies, social entrepreneurs, foundations or public administrations.

includ-ed

The “Local Promoting Groups”

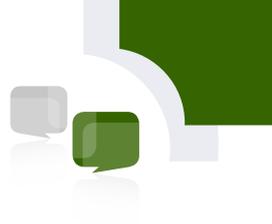
The Local Promoting Groups (LPG) are a collaborative formula created by the includ-ed Network, which allowed for the achievement of two essential targets. On the one hand, to gather the different stakeholders that participate in the world of education with the common aim of promoting inclusive education. On the other, to extend the influence of the Network as a European project to a local level, connecting it with specific realities and encouraging the exchange of experiences in individual contexts. Thus, the LPG have been developed in all of the home cities of the founding partners of includ-ed: Madrid in Spain, Prague in the Czech Republic, Paris and Liévin in France and Jyväskylä in Finland. Each of the founding partners of includ-ed acts as coordinator of a LPG, which are made-up of stakeholders like public authorities, schools, teachers, parents or disability organisations, other entities from civil society, universities and research institutes, experts, companies and the media.

includ-ed Madrid Local Promoting Group meeting, celebrated on October 22 2014 at Fundación ONCE.



“includ-ed Virtual Community”

includ-ed has a website that acts as an online platform, creating a space to exchange information and to disseminate best practices in the field of inclusive education and disability. In addition to the founding partners and associate members of the Network, the “includ-ed Virtual Community” includes multiple experts and organisations from different EU countries working in the field of inclusive education. The profiles and information of all of them are available on the website, which is a space of reference in this field at European level, considering the number of participants that use this forum in order to debate and to exchange experiences.



Study visits on inclusive education and disability



Representatives of incluD-ed founding partners and the Technical Secretariat during the study visit to UNESCO in Paris, on June 8 2015.

Likewise, and with the aim of favouring the exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as mutual learning, the incluD-ed Network carried out Study Visits. One of the visits to be highlighted is the trip to Helsinki in 2014, sponsored by the Finish partner Kynnys ry, during which the members of the Network were able to see first-hand some of the experiences and most significant institutions of the educational sector in the country, a European reference, as well as the achievements and challenges as regards inclusive education.

Another significant study visit took place in June 2015 to the headquarters of the OECD and the UNESCO in Paris, promoted by the French member Association des Paralysés de France (APF), during which the importance of moving forward as regards inclusive education both in Europe and worldwide was highlighted, as well as the important role of a Transnational Cooperation initiative like the incluD-ed Network. One result of these visits is the project of an “online discussion” at international level fostered jointly by UNESCO and incluD-ed around the topics of inclusive education, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and disability, all in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.



European Conference on Inclusive Education and Disability

The nature of the Transnational Cooperation developed by Fundación ONCE, particularly through the European Networks, shows an intense collaboration work, providing a wide variety stakeholders with participation and voice, which is especially relevant in the field of inclusive education and disability.

The extensive activity and the dynamic exchange of experiences has counted on the support of institutional stakeholders of the highest relevance, such as the European Parliament, as was proven by the staging of the "Conference on Inclusive Education and Disability in Europe" in the headquarters of the institution in Brussels, in April 2014, under the auspices of MEPs Rosa Estarás and Ádám Kósa, in collaboration with the incluD-ed Network.

This event supposed an important milestone in the field of inclusive education in the EU due to the institutional boost and the enormous drawing power. More than 100 people attended the conference, including outstanding representatives of the EU institutions and EU organisations: in addition to the European Parliament as such, the European Commission, the Council, through the Permanent Representations of several Member States, the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, as well as experts and social organisations such as the European Disability Forum, just to highlight a few.

The Conference offered a general perspective of the inclusive education systems currently applied in the EU and opened a space of dialogue for the different institutions and organisations attending the meeting. The incluD-ed Network, through its leading partner, Fundación ONCE, shared and formally submitted to the Parliament, a Statement highlighting the key aspects that the Network considered that should be of fundamental attention as regards the promotion of inclusive education in Europe until 2020, from the disability perspective. The Statement included a series of specific recommendations addressed to EU institutions and to Member States.

The Conference on Inclusive Education and Disability was carried out under the auspices and with the support of the European Parliament and turned into an excellent opportunity to present and position the Transnational Cooperation led by Fundación ONCE, in this specific case through the incluD-ed

Network, as a European reference in the field of inclusive education. An informational video of the event was created as a result of the Conference, which included a series of interviews with speakers and participants about inclusive education in Europe.



Opening table of the Conference with (from left to right) MEP Ádám Kósa, MEP Rosa Estarás and Miguel Ángel Cabra de Luna, Director for Social Relations, International Affairs and Strategic Planning at Fundación ONCE, representing incluD-ed.



InNet 16 Observatory launch event

In the first large event of the European Networks held in Madrid in November 2009, in front of an audience of 250 people, Fundación ONCE, with the support of the Spanish Minister of Health and Social Policy at that time, Trinidad Jiménez, introduced the InNet 16 Observatory. The event, which was attended by the highest representatives of the European Disability Forum, ONCE and its Foundation, as well as personalities from the European Commission, offered a platform to debate on the future of the Structural Funds and to declare the commitment of Fundación ONCE to boost Transnational Cooperation in the field of disability. The event highlighted the alignment of InNet 16 with the international regulations originating from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the need to integrate them into all the policies of the EU. In the words of the President of the European Disability Forum, Yannis Vardakastanis, InNet 16 is an “initiative that arrives in the key moment for people with disabilities”.

Opening session of InNet 16 launching event, celebrated on November 24 2009 in Madrid.



Participation of InNet 16 in an Audience at the European Parliament

An Audience organised by the Social Economy Intergroup of the European Parliament was held in June 2011, focused on the topic “The new Cohesion Policy and the new Structural Funds post 2013”. InNet 16 attended the event representing civil society, presenting the main questions related to disability through the analysis on the fulfilling of the non-discrimination and accessibility principle in the implementation of the Funds, in the field of social economy. Members of the Intergroup reaffirmed the commitment of the Parliament to this issue, while representatives of the Commission confirmed the promotion of social inclusion among the priorities of what would become their future Cohesion Policy. The Commission furthermore announced the proposal of allocating minimum funds for the different intervention proposals (ear-marking). This funding modality has been one of the centres of analysis of InNet 16.

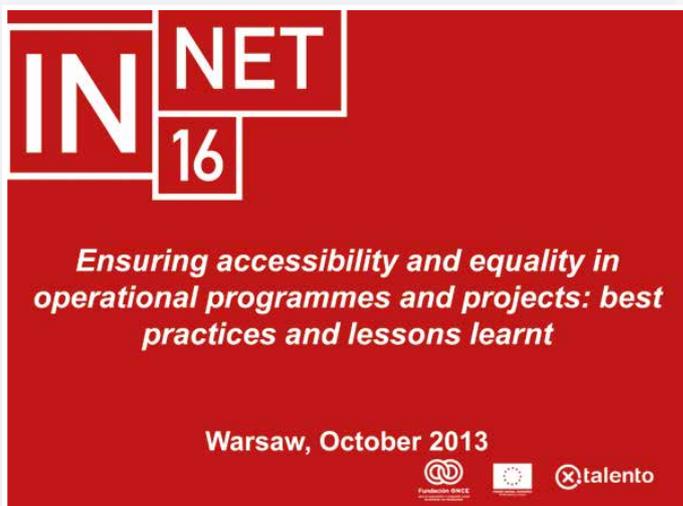
Participation of InNet 16 in a meeting on Disability and the European Social Fund under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure and Development

In October 2013, InNet 16 participated in the Conference “People with Disabilities in the new Financial Perspectives”, organised by the Polish partner of the Network, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, in Warsaw. The aim of the event was informing the representatives of the Polish civil society about the novelties and next steps to be taken for the following programming period, with special emphasis placed on the field of disability. The event gave also rise to an exchange of ideas and best practices.

Representatives of the Ministry announced the official commitment to strengthening the inclusion of people with disabilities in the labour market through actions funded by the ESF, while representatives of InNet 16 highlighted the milestones achieved by the work of the Network, presenting examples of projects that have been carried out within the framework of Operational Programmes financed by the Fund in several European countries, and sharing an analysis of the learned lessons and possible improvements for the future. Likewise, and specifically Fundación ONCE, showed the results of a study on the added value of the Spanish Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013 from the perspective of social investment.

The event also counted on representatives of the Warsaw University and the Polish Association of Social Cooperatives, which provided examples of innovation projects aimed at the social inclusion of people with disabilities in the world of labour, giving rise to a debate on how to reproduce the best practices in this field during the programming period 2014-2020.

In addition to being an example of the involvement of civil society in the design process of new policies, the event contributed to strengthening the disability dimension within the framework of the new Cohesion Policy through an open dialogue between authorities, beneficiary organisations of the Funds and international stakeholders.



Presentation slide of InNet 16 participation in the Conference “People with Disabilities in the new Financial Perspectives”, held in Warsaw on October 28 2013.



3. Contribution to the design of public policies

The Transnational Cooperation carried out by Fundación ONCE, particularly through the European Networks, has not only been shown in the different actions that have already been described, but also in an intense activity of active contribution to the EU political debate, with the clear challenge of underpinning messages that are considered as key for disability, specifically in the three fields of actions of the Networks: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR+D Network), Inclusive Education (includ-ed Network) and Structural and Investment Funds (InNet 16).

To do so, the Networks have built, developed and maintained communication and interaction channels with the decision-making authorities and other political stakeholders at European and national level, providing them with objective data and objective information elements, which have turned into solid technical sets of arguments to back the inclusion and reinforcement of disability in the European agendas.

In this sense, the Networks have drawn-up a large amount of publications and documents with an institutional and political character, in the shape of position papers, statements or contributions and answers to public consultations launched by different European and international bodies, just to mention a few of these instruments, always keeping and defending the disability mainstreaming.

Examples of activities and outstanding achievements



Contribution to the inclusion of the Disability Dimension into the CSR Reports of the European Parliament

The CSR+D Network started, back in 2012, an important political advocacy strategy in the European Parliament, with the aim of encouraging the inclusion of disability in two reports that this European institution was drawing up on Corporate Social Responsibility, on the initiative of MEP Richard Howitt and former MEP Raffaella Baldassarre. The Network submitted a series of amendments to the reports, which continued with an intensive round of contacts with several MEPs to make the Network and its key messages known. The process ended with the publication of the respective reports in 2013, including the proposals of the Network. This action meant a contribution to strengthening the presence of disability in the EU CSR agendas.



Contribution to the inclusion of Disability in the national CSR strategies in Spain and Italy

The European Network for CSR+D gathered a series of proposals for the Spanish Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy during its preparation period, which were submitted to the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI) with the aim of strengthening the disability dimension in the document. The version that was finally approved and passed by the Spanish Government in 2014 included a large part of the proposals. On the other hand, both the disability question and the specific mention of the European Network for CSR+D, led by Fundación ONCE, were included in the National CSR Action Plan 2012-2014 in Italy, thanks to the contribution of the Italian partner of the Network, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of that country. The Plan does also include a mention of the significant role of public procurement to promote social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities, enhancing the creation of specific instruments.

Contribution to the inclusion of disability in the European Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility

A milestone of great relevance in matters of CSR was the inclusion of disability, for the first time, in the respective European agenda through the Communication that was published by the European Commission in October 2011 "Renewed EU Strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility". Joint messages and actions of the European Network for CSR+D and their members during the preparation and approval process can be highlighted as factors that contributed to this success.

After this important milestone, the Network continued working so that the coming EU initiatives in this field, and particularly the renewal of the European CSR Strategy for the future, keep and strengthen the disability perspective as an element part of the "multi-dimensional nature" of corporate social responsibility, as it is defined in the 2011 Strategy.

A fact to be highlighted in this context is the contribution of the CSR+D Network to the public consultation launched by the European Commission in 2014, calling attention on the need to keep and to go deeper into the reference of disability in future strategies. Likewise, the Network participated in relevant meetings, such as the seminar "The Future of the EU Strategy on CSR and Reporting" organised by the CSR Europe platform in 2014 in Brussels.

Last but not least, the Network prepared a brief position paper in 2015, which has been shared with several representatives of the areas of European Commission which are most related to CSR and Disability with regard to the renewal of the European Strategy on Corporate Social Responsibility.



includ-ed

Preparation of Position Papers in matters of inclusive education and disability

Through Position Papers prepared by the partners of includ-ed, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, the collaboration of experts and considering the working lines of entities like the European Disability Forum, the includ-ed Network defined an institutional position on inclusive education, which was intended to have an influence on the decision-making process. includ-ed has drawn-up and disseminated several Position Papers among relevant European stakeholders, including the Commission, the Parliament and the Council, with the aim of integrating disability and promoting inclusive education in different programmes, policies, initiatives and instruments, such as the Europe 2020 Strategy or the European University Ranking system, U-Multirank, just to mention a few.

Two of these Position Papers are especially worth mentioning, as they are dedicated to the international programmes of the OECD, i.e. PISA and PIAAC (Programme for International Student Assessment and Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, respectively). In these documents, includ-ed forwards demands dealing with accessibility of the survey used to make the assessments, as well as with the collection of more precise information about people with disabilities, among other topics. These two documents have been submitted both to the OECD and to other European institutions and were very welcomed, and the proposals were taken into consideration, as it was possible to see during the study visit of includ-ed to the OECD headquarters in Paris in June 2015.

Written Declaration of the European Parliament on Inclusive Education and Disability

As already explained in the previous pages, the Conference on Inclusive Education and Disability held in April 2014 in the headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels, was a milestone as regards the Transnational Cooperation carried out by Fundació ONCE, in this specific case through the includ-ed Network. The Statement on the need to promote inclusive education in Europe, which was submitted at the conference by includ-ed to MEP Rosa Estaràs, host of the event, resulted in the launch of a Written Declaration by the European Parliament in September 2015. This declaration, promoted by Ms. Estaràs with the collaboration of several other members of the Parliament from different countries and political groups, is currently open for signatures.

(Example continues in next page)



The Declaration (“Written Declaration on promoting inclusive education Systems”), gathers messages backed by included, and refers to different relevant questions such as the early detection of special educational needs (SEN), the qualified personalised support, universal accessibility of curricula, the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and of learning materials and support services, the participation of SEN students in all stages of education, including post-compulsory education and university, the mechanisms for the transition from special to mainstream schools, and from education to employment, or the training for teachers and professionals.



Social Innovation, Disability and European Funds

The new approach of the European Union for Social Innovation is a unique opportunity for the active inclusion of people with disabilities. With the aim of providing visibility to the connection between Social Innovation, Disability and Structural and Investment Funds, InNet 16 has identified best practices as well as public policy trends in this field. The analysis confirms that Social Innovation can boost new ways to improve the employability of people with disabilities, thus contributing to increasing their autonomy in order to become active agents in their own inclusion. Likewise, Social Innovation is capable of providing solutions to overcome the fragmentation of services and to boost the creation of a European market for universally accessible products and services, the value of which is estimated at 30 billion Euros per year.

Tools to improve the participation of the disability sector in the Programmes of the Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014- 2020

With the aim of supporting the entities of the disability sector in their contribution strategies within the new context of the Investment and Structural Funds, InNet 16 has developed a Manual that offers a series of guidelines and orientations to strengthen their incidence capacity in the preparation process, as well as their participation in the management and follow-up of the national Operational Programmes for the period 2014-2020. The tools and instruments designed by the Network contribute to broaden the knowledge in the disability sector and to develop practical initiatives adapted to the new context.



InNet 16 Dialogue and contribution to the European debate on the new Structural and Investment Funds

The InNet 16 Network was born as an Observatory dedicated to the monitoring, collection of information and analysis to reinforce a more inclusive Europe for people with disabilities through the use of the Structural Funds (today called Structural and Investment Funds). This spirit is included in the principles of equality, non-discrimination and participation of civil society, which are reflected in the European Funds Regulations.

As part of its mission, InNet 16 has prepared a detailed study of the European political agenda with the aim of disseminating best practices and areas of difficulty in the performance of policies in the field of disability, and to raise awareness among the key stakeholders for the configuration of the new framework for the Cohesion Policy, with the aim of proposing improvements and public policy solutions.

The action of the Network has been based on the interaction with civil society, as well as with the decision-making authorities, providing objective data and studies to back technical arguments aimed at strengthening the disability dimension. Thus, InNet 16 has developed an extensive programme of institutional contacts with the aim of providing visibility to the work of the Observatory, boosting the institutional work with information achieved by means of the exchange with the partners, the managing authorities, the beneficiaries of the Funds and the associative movements.

In this sense, meetings were organised with different members of the European Parliament, who participated in the formulation process of the new legislative framework, with the European Commission through the heads of the most directly involved areas, as well as with the rotating Presidencies of the EU Council, including the Polish Presidency. Likewise, the dissemination of contents with a high added value by the Observatory were reflected in the evaluation, made by the decision-makers in Spain, of the results of the Transnational Cooperation carried out by Fundación ONCE within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013. It can be found, for example, in public documents, such as the Position Paper on Spain of the European Commission for the national programming period 2014-2020.

The result of the Regulations approved for the period 2014-2020 imply a clear improvement as regards the disability dimension if compared to those of the previous period. For example, the text reinforces the principles of non-discrimination and accessibility, in addition to including key obligations derived from the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Network is consequently an example of the participation of civil society in the design process of European policies.

4. Awards and Recognitions

European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability: Promoting Social Investment

The Transnational Cooperation led by Fundación ONCE has integrated a few particular experiences that are worth highlighting. They were created within the European Networks but have grown an own identity becoming initiatives with a huge potential and impact. This is especially the case of the “European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability: Promoting Social Investment”, which, promoted by Fundación ONCE, was launched in 2013 within the framework of the European Network for CSR+D and has already been held twice.



The initiative of the Award is inspired in the value of the talent of people with disabilities, who represent 16% of the European population. Together with their families, they represent a large sector of consumers, generating new business opportunities related to the different current and future social challenges affecting a Europe which is undergoing an ageing process and has the need to strengthen employment and social inclusion among many other big challenges. Thus, innovation and social entrepreneurship are two key concepts in which the figure of the social entrepreneur is becoming more and more important.

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The goal of the Award is to promote social entrepreneurship as a driving force to improve the creation of employment and the encouragement of social cohesion in Europe. At the same time, it should contribute to providing people with disabilities with an outstanding role in the European model for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, as intended by the European 2020 Strategy. In this context and through the two editions implemented, which were launched in October 2013 and October 2014, the Award wants to publicly recognise social entrepreneurship projects that deal with the field of disability, as well as projects that are promoted by entrepreneurs with disabilities with innovative initiatives.

The European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability counts on the collaboration of the European Commission and the support of L'Oréal (FR), Telefónica (ES) and the Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (IT) –the three founding partners of the CSR+D Network, together with Fundación ONCE–, as well as Fundación Triodos (ES), Kanchi (IRL) and Essl Foundation (AUS). The second edition was additionally supported by the European Disability Forum and EIDD– Design for All Europe (IRL). The prize money of the Award increased from €6,000 in the first edition to €11,000 in the second edition, as this time it counted on the contributions by L'Oréal, Fundación ONCE, Fundación Triodos and EIDD as sponsors. Both editions included a “highly commended project by the Jury” as second recognition.



Prize-Giving Ceremony of the 1st European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability, held on 16 January 2014 in Strasbourg during the Conference "Social Entrepreneurs: Have Your Say". From left to right: Gregor Demblin, winner; Alberto Durán López, Fundación ONCE Executive Vice-President and President of ILUNION; and Lázló Andor, at that moment Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

The consecutive experiences of the Award led to an increase in representation, as regards the origin of the projects. The second edition received 33 eligible submissions from 13 countries of the European Union, and the percentage of participating entrepreneurs with disabilities increased as well.

The assessment and selection of the initiatives followed a careful process, including the participation of the Technical Secretariat of the CSR+D Network, as well as of a Jury made-up of representatives of the entities that collaborate with the Award.

Worth mentioning are the prize-giving ceremonies of the Award, which were significantly supported and attended by the European Commission. The awarding of the prize to the winner of the 1st edition took place during the Conference "Social Entrepreneurs: Have your Say", held in Strasbourg, on 16 and 17 January 2014 and was chaired by Mr. Lázló Andor, back then Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The winning project was submitted by the Austrian entrepreneur with a disability Gregor Demblin. His initiative, called "Career Moves", approaches the challenge of unemployment for people with disabilities using information technologies.

The prize-giving ceremony of the 2nd Edition was held on 1 July 2015 in Brussels, in the headquarters of the European Foundation Centre-Philanthropy House. This time, the ceremony was chaired by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, showing once again the commitment and support of the initiative by the European Commission. In front of around fifty distinguished attendants, representing European institutions, companies, the civil society and the disability movement, the Bulgarian entrepreneur with residence in Austria, Kristina Tsvetanova, received the award for her project 'BLI-TAB, First Tablet for Blind and Visually Impaired People', an initiative that consists in a tablet device fitted with an innovative technology based on the Braille reading and writing system with the aim of improving the quality of life of visually impaired people.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONSS

The projects that were finalists in the 1st Edition of the Award were gathered in a publication with the aim of inspiring other entrepreneurs, public administrations, the corporate and the social economy sector, showing the potential of the disability dimension as regards entrepreneurship and the active contribution of people with disabilities as entrepreneurs. As this publication went to press, the respective compilation of the finalist projects of the 2nd Edition is being prepared.

In short, the initiative “European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability” has significantly contributed to the promotion of excellence and innovation, as well as to creating debate and raising awareness. But it has also implied a boost for entrepreneurs and their projects, providing examples and inspiring ideas. The huge impact and resonance of the Award initiative have contributed to increasing the representation and positioning of the European Network for CSR+D, of their partners and of the collaborating entities, as strategic agents in terms of disability, CSR, innovation and social entrepreneurship. The example of this Award is with no doubt a pioneering experience to be highlighted within the framework of the Transnational Cooperation, which is worth to be disseminated.

Prize-giving ceremony of the 2nd European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability, held on 1 July 2015 at the Philanthropy House in Brussels. From left to right: Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility; Kristina Tsvetanova, winner; and Alberto Durán López, Fundación ONCE Executive Vice-President and President of ILUNION.





5. Communication and Dissemination

Global Communication Strategy of the Transnational Cooperation Networks

Ambitious communication strategies have been designed and set-off in the framework of the Transnational Cooperation activities led by Fundación ONCE, particularly through the European Networks CSR+D, incluD-ed and InNet 16, with the aim of disseminating the activities and the accomplished results. The communication activities have also allowed an encouragement of the relationships between stakeholders, thus contributing to raising awareness and involving key stakeholders as regards the need to mainstream disability into the agendas and, particularly, as regards the Structural and Investment Funds, Inclusive Education and Corporate Social Responsibility, as the three specific scopes of action.

Several communication and dissemination tools and mechanisms have been developed by the Networks, such as websites, newsletters, press releases, activities in social media, regular meetings between partners and participation in conferences of third parties, amongst others.

Dynamic communication tools

The Networks have developed a series of specific communication tools, such as their own websites, as a point of reference of their activity. The websites are accessible and available in English, Spanish, and in some cases, like incluD-ed, in French as well.



→ www.csr-d.eu



→ www.includ-ed.eu

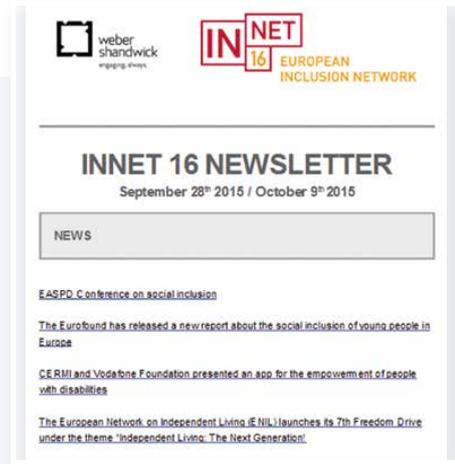


→ www.innet16.eu

Image of home pages of CSR+D, incluD-ed and InNet 16 European Networks' websites (from left to right).



5. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION



Cover images of CSR+D, incluD-ed and InNet 16 European Networks' Newsletters.

Moreover, the Networks have joined the social media, as is the case of CSR+D and incluD-ed, and the number of followers has been constantly increasing to currently more than 500 (@incluD-ed and @csrd_eu in Twitter, and incluD-ed Network in LinkedIn).

As a complement to this, each of the Networks has prepared and disseminated periodical newsletters, after identifying a large community of stakeholders related to the topics they work on, both from European and national public institutions, the corporate sector and civil society. By means of these instruments, the Networks have provided relevant information, disseminated their activity, "created" communities of interests and raised awareness.

In addition, the Networks have prepared leaflets, presentations and informative videos that have served as a base to disseminate their activity, and have been especially useful at forums, conferences and seminars both organised by themselves or by third parties.



Internal meetings and participation in third-party conferences and events

As a coordination and communication mechanism, the Networks have held regular meetings with their members, particularly with their founding partners. These meetings became significant forums in which to deliberate, exchange experiences and learn from each other. Some of these meetings have also served to bring about larger meetings with other stakeholders or to carry out other activities like study visits.

In addition to organising and holding own events, such as conferences, workshops, seminars, meetings, many of which have been described in previous sections of this publication, the European Networks and their members have been able to generate opportunities and appeals to take part in events organised by third parties, thus expanding the dissemination and impact of the initiatives and the activities carried out.

There are multiple examples to be mentioned, but we only want to highlight a few, such as the participation of the European Network for CSR+D in the successive conferences of the emblematic Zero Project, promoted by Essl Foundation, the presentation of this same Network at the High Level Group on CSR of the European Commission in 2012, the participation of InNet 16 in the meeting sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Infrastructures and Development on Disability and the European Social Fund (mentioned in previous pages) in 2013, or the presentation of incluD-ed as an outstanding experience at the High Level Meeting on Disability held by the Latvian Presidency of the EU in May 2015 (“High Level Meeting on Disability: from Inclusive Education to Inclusive Employment for People with Disabilities”).



Network partners' meetings examples (from left to right): InNet 16 in Madrid, 2011; CSR+D in Rome, 2013, and incluD-ed in Paris, 2015.



Conclusions and Recommendations:

The added value of the Transnational Cooperation under the European Social Fund

After the presentation of the Transnational Cooperation activity led by Fundación ONCE within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) – running until 2015 –, as well as after the presentation and analysis of a selection of specific examples of significant activities carried out in this context, the following pages will show the main conclusions and recommendations which have been drawn by the external evaluation developed. These conclusions and recommendations show the added value provided by the ESF Transnational Cooperation and the contribution made by Fundación ONCE.

1. General conclusions

Creation of three stable Transnational Cooperation structures in the shape of multi-stakeholder Networks with a participative approach

These structures illustrated with the examples of the Networks incluD-ed, Innet 16 and CSR+D have been able to gather, in an orderly way, the participation of a large variety of stakeholders from different countries of the European Union. This has allowed the creation of a series of products and the realisation of a large number of activities aimed at contributing to mainstreaming disability into the European agendas, particularly as regards the Structural and Investment Funds (through InNet 16), Inclusive Education (through incluD-ed) and the Corporate Social Responsibility (through the Network for CSR+D). All of it with the final aim of promoting social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities in Europe, in line with essential policies and instruments, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Large geographic scope with more than thirty reference stakeholders from different countries working for a common purpose

The structure of the European Networks promoted by Fundación ONCE has been growing and consolidating along time, expanding the Transnational Cooperation to thirteen countries, twelve of which are EU Member States. Under the leadership of Fundación ONCE, these Networks have involved organisations with different natures, both public and private, as founding partners, associate members and collaborating entities, making-up a group of more than 30 stakeholders, which are relevant for the different working areas. This large number of participating stakeholders and their heterogeneity is considered as a very important asset as it strengthens the transnational, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach of the Transnational Cooperation implemented through the Networks InNet 16, incluD-ed and CSR+D, and their complementary actions, enriching the common and collaborative work, which is necessary to move forward with mainstreaming disability in Europe.

The Transnational Collaboration Networks have become large think tanks

The Transnational Cooperation networks have stood out due to the innovative and cutting-edge character of certain studies, activities and projects developed by or related to them, which show the will of Fundación ONCE to provide a useful service to platforms and organisations that are relevant in the field of disability, the third sector, social economy, the corporate sector, national, European and international public institutions and the civil society as a whole, thus maximising the added value of the European Social Fund.

The exchange of experiences, best practices, knowledge and the mutual learning as an essential pillar of Transnational Collaboration

These Transnational Cooperation platforms with multiple actors have carried out a profuse and valuable activity as regards research and analysis of the topics, which are the object of their work, as well as the generation of dynamics for collaboration and mutual learning, through the exchange of good practices, experiences and knowledge. These activities have led to a large number of technical and institutional publications and the staging of meetings, seminars, workshops, events, conferences and study visits, all of which were accompanied by powerful communication and dissemination tools.

The three European Networks which have been boosted by Fundación ONCE have been working actively to contribute to the design of public policies

Through their work, the Networks incluD-ed, InNet 16 and CSR+D have contributed with analysis elements, conclusions and recommendations to boost the presence of disability in the design of public policies in each of their respective sectors. They have carried out a praiseworthy task raising awareness among key stakeholders, both in politics, the private sector and in social movements, thus contributing to the visibility of civil society in these processes.

The realisation of a series of “flagship initiatives” within the framework of Transnational Cooperation has reinforced the added value and the impact

Activities considered as pioneering, such as the “European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability”, launched in 2013 and already held twice; the Conference on Inclusive Education and Disability held at the European Parliament in 2014; or the dialog processes with managing authorities and beneficiaries on the treatment of disability in the Operational Programmes of the Structural and Investment Funds of the different Member States, are just a few of the examples included in this publication, which have allowed the realisation of the targets established by the Networks become tangible. These activities have had a very important impact and resonance, which have contributed to increasing the potential and positioning, both of the Networks and of Fundación ONCE as a strategic stakeholder in the field of disability in Europe.

Transnational Cooperation has been carried out by cutting-edge, leading organisations and entities

Fundación ONCE managed to gather a group of leading organisations under the umbrella of common targets, in order to carry out Transnational Cooperation. Together they have been able to contribute the necessary knowledge and experience to start-up the activities that have been developed. Thus, the recognised prestige of these entities provided the Networks with legitimacy and credibility and contributed to positioning them as qualified actors to add, to a larger or smaller extent, to the definition of European policies and initiatives, in order to identify and disseminate best practices and to generate communities of interest, to raise awareness and to take action around different topics.

High commitment and effective coordination by Fundación ONCE as keys to the positive experience

The commitment shown by Fundación ONCE to Transnational Cooperation, as well as its effective management and coordination have led to a solid

leadership that has been essential as regards the definition of the strategic approach of the Networks, the design of the broad lines of action, of the changes and evolution in time, and for the direction and coordination of the essential organisational and technical support provided by the Technical Secretariats of the Networks.

2. Transnational Cooperation as a valuable experience for Fundación ONCE

Since 2009, Fundación ONCE has started, developed and expanded the Transnational Cooperation activity within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the European Social Fund. As a result of these years of work, the mechanism for the collaboration, exchange and mutual learning between stakeholders implied by Transnational Cooperation has generated an added value for Fundación ONCE in three different dimensions:

As a relevant actor in the field of disability in Europe

Above all, the intense Transnational Cooperation activity by Fundación ONCE has allowed the organisation to improve its profile as prescribing agent for disability at a European level, strengthening its alliance policy, finding valuable travel partners and increasing its influence level and capacity. This is mainly due to the realisation of a series of "flagship initiatives" which have received large recognition and had a huge impact in Europe, and in some cases even worldwide, as well as to the own innovative and pioneering character in certain fields of activity of the Networks. All of this, counting on the participation of European reference organisations as partners, setting up working teams and platforms in order to work together with a border-crossing knowledge in certain fields related to disability.

As a leading entity in the promotion and management of Transnational Cooperation initiatives

Secondly, and as a result of leading the three Networks, Fundación ONCE has gathered large experience and has improved its management abilities in Transnational Cooperation actions, gaining new knowledge as regards design, implementation and dissemination of this type of initiatives, as well as in the coordination and management of a significant number of partners which have different natures and origins, and in the management of the Technical Secretariats which have been part of the projects. All of this has contributed substantially to consolidating the European profile of Fundación ONCE, nurturing its role as a very attractive, potential, international partner to become part of future transnational consortiums and partnerships for relevant projects.

As a reference operator in the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013

Last but not least, Fundación ONCE has contributed outstandingly to the performance of Priority Axis 4 (Transnational Cooperation) of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013, co-funded by the European Social Fund, having been a benchmark as regards the scope and intensiveness of the Transnational Cooperation carried out, developing this activity in a systematic manner, following a logical frame and channelling the work especially through the European Networks, i.e. InNet 16, incluD-ed and CSR+D, as stable large-scale structures.

3. Looking to the future: Recommendations

Below, and as a final section of this document, there is a selection of the main recommendations for the future, extracted from the evaluation conducted.

To provide the work done with continuity and to make the achieved results sustainable

It is recommended to give continuity to the Transnational Cooperation carried out by Fundación ONCE in the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013. The Networks and the multiple activities that have been developed through them and related to them have more than accomplished the targets for which they were created and have proven to be useful instruments to produce knowledge in the shape of solid technical arguments, to generate a greater dynamisation and joint work between relevant stakeholders of different natures and from different sectors but with a common purpose, and they have turned into key platforms with a capacity to contribute to the design of public policies, which are relevant for the social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities, in line with the European model, backed by the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

Growth of the Networks both in number and geographical representation and combination of instruments

Although Fundación ONCE has deployed a Transnational Cooperation strategy with a wide range and scope around the figure of the three European Networks, incluD-ed, CSR+D and InNet 16, an increase in the number and geographical representation of the participating partners in the future and for this type of figure, would provide an improvement of their position, extending their potential in fields such as the contribution to the design of public policies even more. It is true, however, that the creation of Networks is just one of many instruments for Transnational Cooperation, and that it can be combined with effective transnational projects and initiatives with a more limited nature as regards the

number of participants. This combination of large and small range instruments with more or less complexity could become an interesting formula for the future development.

Getting deeper into the valuable formula of public-private partnerships and expanding the achievements of the Networks to other platforms

The Transnational Cooperation initiatives that have been developed so far have generated very positive dynamics through the common work, integrating the figure of public-private partnerships as one of the pillars. This resulted in the positioning of the Networks as reference actors in their respective fields of action. Within the framework of the continuity of these dynamics and the sustainability of this "good job", the relationship with the corporate world should be strengthened, and it would be worth working in order to extend the achievements of the Transnational Cooperation to other platforms, associations and entities.

The Transnational Cooperation carried out by Fundación ONCE, as a positive experience for the period 2014-2020

In a moment in which the results of the Networks led by Fundación ONCE have already taken shape, the positioning of the foundation, as well as of the transnational partners has been strengthened, and the implementation of the 2014-2020 programming period has started, the current position is considered as ideal to draw up new proposals for initiatives and projects that, based on the gathered experience, may continue maximising the value of the European Social Fund. This opportunity, which comes out of a well done job and the maturity of the Transnational Cooperation led by Fundación ONCE, should surely be taken.

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