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For immediate release

Is the European justice system accessible?

[International seminar focuses on barriers preventing people with disabilities from part-taking in the European Union justice system.](#)

Brussels, March 15th 2019 – Are laws written in a way in which people with intellectual disabilities can understand them? Are interpreters available for deaf defendants? Is everyone granted the right to speak? Can courts be accessed in a wheelchair? These were some of the questions addressed as part of the #Just4All project at its first seminar - Barriers of Access to Justice of Persons with Disabilities in the EU Context. The lack of accessible infrastructure excludes people with disabilities from part-taking in a range of sectors in society, and this extends to justice.

The initiative launched in November last year seeks to improve the accessibility of judicial systems across the European Union, lead by Fundación ONCE in partnership with the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), the European Disability Forum (EDF), Fundación ONCE, Thomson Reuters Aranzadi, and the Instituto de los Derechos Humanos Bartolome de las Casas of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (IDHBC UC3M). Also in attendance, representatives from the Bulgarian centre for not-for-profit law, the European Commission (DG Employment), the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Foundation Centre, the European Network on Independent Living, the Service Foundation for People with Disabilities (KVPS), the International Union of Notaries, Mental Health Europe, and Validity.

The outputs of this 30 month project will include an online glossary of the EU justice system, and a report on practices which make justice accessible, such as translating documents into accessible formats such as Easy to Read, and training judges and other legal professionals on how to work with people with disabilities. The next seminar will be held in Madrid at UC3M on the 11th of April and will be building onto this body of work, this time in Spanish. You can follow the progress of the project through the website Just4All.eu.

Notes to editor



The [European Disability Forum](#) is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organisations of

persons with disabilities from across Europe. It is run by persons with disabilities and their families. EDF is a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.