**European Union of Supported Employment’s (EUSE) response to Draft General Comment on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to the discussion on Article 27 to the UNCRPD.**

**Introduction**

The **European Union of Supported Employment** (EUSE) is a non-Government organisation and was established in 1993 to facilitate the development of Supported Employment throughout Europe. Supported Employment assists people with significant disabilities (physical, learning, mental health, sensory and hidden) to access real employment opportunities, of their own choice, in an integrated setting with appropriate ongoing support to become economically and socially active in their own communities.

EUSE works to achieve this through the promotion of the Supported Employment model, the exchange of information and knowledge on good practice in Supported Employment and the development of model services. EUSE provides a platform for networking with other organisations and associations at European and worldwide level. EUSE represents 19 National Association from across Europe ([www.euse.org](http://www.euse.org) )

EUSE submitted a response to the on General Comment Article 27 (March 2021). For a copy [click here](http://euse.org/images/Joint_Message_on_Inclusive_Labour_Market_in_Europe.pdf).

EUSE is the co-author of the Vienna Declaration (“Employment for All – Strategies for the Implementation of the UN CRPD” 2018) which was submitted as part of the consultation on General Comment for Article 27. For a copy of the Vienna Declaration [click here](http://euse.org/images/Vienna_Declaration-EN.pdf)

EUSE is also founder member of the Inclusive Labour Market Alliance (ILMA) and produced a joint message on Inclusive Employment [click here](https://euse.org/about/joint-message-on-inclusive-labourmarket-in-europe).

The Supported Employment model is internationally recognised and aligns/fits well within UNCRPD, Article 27 Right to Work and Employment.

**Definition of Supported Employment is** the provision of support to people with disabilities or other disadvantaged groups to **secure** and **maintain paid employment** in the **open labour market**.

EUSE fully supports UNCRDP Article 27 Right to Work and Employment however recognises that disabled people are still significantly underrepresented in the open labour market, do not receive the same employment rights and conditions, have no legal protection and are not working in inclusive workplaces. Furthermore, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the health and wellbeing of disabled workers and jobseekers.

EUSE welcomes and strongly supports the rationale and recommendations in the Draft General Comment on Article 27 on the Rights of person with disabilities to work and employment. To put an end to the situation of exclusion from the labour market of persons with disabilities and to tackle their persistent situation of unemployment, immediate action must be undertaken.

The Draft General Comment on Article 27 on the Rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment has included many of the recommendation put forward by EUSE.

In response to the Draft General Comment on Article 27, EUSE would highlight the following areas for consideration:-

* People with complex disabilities are at the most at risk of unemployment, discrimination, exploitation and segregation. State parties must ensure that people with complex disabilities should be treated on an equal basis as all disabled people and specific consideration must be given regarding legislation, policy and practice.
* Supported Employment model, as stated above, provides support to disabled people, employers and family/carers, and should be considered as a pathway to inclusive open employment.
* State parties should register the Supported Employment model in their legislation or at least set up projects to be able to develop supported employment in accordance with its methodology and principles. To ensure that every person with a disability or other vulnerable person is entitled to a paid job with the personalised support needed for as much and as long as this person and his/her work environment need it.
* State parties should ensure that there is high quality in delivery of programmes (i.e. vocational training, internships, apprenticeships etc) for disable people. High quality programmes and services will drive increase employment outcomes. An example of quality standards model is the Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF). For further information on SEQF [click here](https://euse.org/news/se-quality-framework-seqf).

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