**Questions for Member States:**

1. Please provide information on the legislative and policy framework in place in your country related to the status, establishment, resourcing, and functioning of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and local levels;

In Germany, networking between all stake-holders and a constant exchange between the Federal Government and civil society and other state and non-state agencies regarding the individual schemes is a major prerequisite for the successful implementation of the National Action plan on the Implementation of the UN CRPD (NAP). The coordination mechanism that has been set up with the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Disabled Persons (consisting of the Advisory Council on Inclusion and specialist committees), the Committee on the NAP which has been established at the state’s point of contact at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as well as the Monitoring Body at the German Institute for Human Rights, actively support the implementation of the schemes of the National Action Plan.

1. Please provide information on existing legislation and policies aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including children with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision-making processes that directly or indirectly concern them;

Please refer to Paragraph (§) 47 of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries (Gemeinsame Geschäftsordnung der Bundesministerien, GGO):

§ 47 Involvement of the Länder, national associations of local authorities, the expert community and associations

…

(3) The prompt involvement of central and umbrella associations and of the expert community at federal level is subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 mutatis mutandis. The timing, scope and selection will be left to the discretion of the lead Federal Ministry, unless specific rules stipulate otherwise. The involvement referred to in paragraph 1 should take precedence over the involvement referred to in this paragraph and to the notification referred to in § 48 (1).

1. Please provide information on any consultative body or mechanism established to consult and engage with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including information about their composition, criteria for membership (nomination, appointment, election, etc.) and functioning;

In accordance with section 14 of the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the Federal Government nominates a Commissioner for Matters relating to Disabled Persons for a legislative period. His/her task is to see to it that the responsibility of the Federation to ensure equivalent living conditions for persons with and without disabilities is complied with in all areas of the life of society . This ensures that matters relating to disabled persons are taken into account in all relevant policy areas. The tasks of the Commissioner include:

* participation in legislation proceedings and parliamentary interpellations,
* awareness-raising and public relations work, e.g. by organising specialist discussions, conferences and press work (cf. also Art. 8), and
* answering more than 2,500 written citizens’ enquiries per year on the topic of equality and equal rights of persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, all Federal Länder have also established a Commissioner for Matters relating to Disabled Persons with comparable tasks and competences who exchange experiences with one another and with the Federal Commissioner on current issues relating to policy on disability. Additionally, many rural districts, towns and local authorities have full-time or honorary municipal disability commissioners, as well as auxiliary disability councils, campaigning specifically at local level for the interests of citizens with disabilities.

1. Please provide information on the efforts undertaken at national, regional and/or local levels to strengthen the capacity of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to facilitate their participation in legislative, policy and other decision-making processes;

Germany empowers Disabled Persons Organisations by funding a range of projects linked with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Because the participation on decisions on federal level depends on financial resources, Germany will establish the funding of organisations of disabled people on federal level:

* By promoting capacity building
* By funding youth work and measures for potential development of volunteer trainees
* By organizational development
* By Funding structural improvement d.)
* By Funding Improvement of technical infrastructure and training
* By Funding technical infrastructure
* By Funding disability-specific additional needs as assistance or aids and appliances, e.g.

In Germany, a guide to disability mainstreaming was developed for the highest federal authorities, to raise awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and to facilitate their early involvement in political decision-making processes. This guide also includes practical assistance with barrier-free events and publications. The guide will be published soon.

1. Please explain whether and how persons with disabilities participate in monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 33, para. 3), and in the nomination of experts to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 34, para. 3);

Consultation and coordination with representative organizations of persons with disabilities is ensured by the mechanisms described in the reply to 1. The German member in the CRPD committee is a well-known expert in disability studies and a person with disabilities herself.

1. Please identify the main challenges faced by the diversity of persons with disabilities in participating in mainstream and disability-specific decision-making processes at the national, regional and local levels, including challenges faced by persons who experience multiple discrimination (e.g., on the basis of disability, age, gender, ethnic origin, geographical location).

No information available.