



## European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

### FLASH REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Liechtenstein
<b>Title:</b>	Government adopts bill for the amendment of the Disability Equality Act
<b>Date:</b>	6 January 2020
<b>Expert:</b>	Hornich Patricia
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	The bill contains the necessary legislative adjustments due to the Directive (EU) 2016/2102 on barrier-free access to the websites and mobile applications of public authorities
<b>Grounds of discrimination:</b>	Disability
<b>Field of application:</b>	All fields
<b>Source:</b>	National legislation
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Act on Equality of People with Disabilities (AEPD, Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz)

### Content

**Law development:** Directive (EU) 2016/2102 on Accessible Access to Public Sector Web Sites and Mobile Applications aims to help EU Member States meet national obligations on Accessible Web Access. Basis is the commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to the Public Sector. Thus, Liechtenstein as a member of the EEA has the same obligations in relation to the Directive (EU) 2016/2102. Liechtenstein's government plans to fulfil its obligations and therefore to adopt amendments to the national Act on Equality of People with Disabilities.

**Key points of analysis:** Liechtenstein is obliged to transpose Directive (EU) 2016/2102 into national law after its incorporation into the EEA Agreement.

By amending the Act on Equality of People with Disabilities, Liechtenstein is fulfilling its obligation under the EEA Agreement. The implementing decisions (EU) 2018/1524, (EU) 2018/1523 and (EU) 2018/2048 will be directly applicable in Liechtenstein after their incorporation into the EEA Agreement. This does not require national implementation.

The main points of the legislative adjustment are as follows:

- Public authorities and other public bodies are increasingly using the Internet to obtain or provide online a wide range of information and services of fundamental importance to the public. The public sector has to make their websites and mobile applications more accessible based on common accessibility requirements.
- The concept of 'accessible access' includes principles and techniques to be followed in the design, creation, and maintenance / updating of websites and mobile applications in order to make them more accessible to users, in particular people with disabilities.

The bill for the amendment of the Disability Equality Act includes, in particular, the insertion of a new Chapter IV. Main regulations relate to:

- Concrete requirements for the accessibility of websites and mobile devices of public authorities.
- Declaration on accessibility, which the public bodies have to publish and keep up to date.
- A Regulation of the monitoring and reporting with regard to the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public authorities.
- Organisational and competence issues in connection with the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public authorities. In particular regarding the receipt and examination of complaints, information and advice as well as the coordination of training programmes regarding the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public authorities.
- Data protection provisions.

The bill for the amendment of the Disability Equality Act is now available for public consultation until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. It is planned to put the amended Disability Equality Act into force at the same time as the Decision of the EEA Joint Committee on the incorporation of Directive (EU) 2016/2102 is incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

**Internet link source:** Government consultation report on the amendment of the Disability Equality Act (only available in German):

[https://www.llv.li/files/srk/vnb\\_behindertengleichstellungsgesetz.pdf](https://www.llv.li/files/srk/vnb_behindertengleichstellungsgesetz.pdf).