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Stelios Charitakis

Access Denied

The Role of the European Union in Ensuring Accessibility under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Stelios Charitakis

Access Denied



The adoption and entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UNCRPD constituted a significant milestone in the field of human rights and disability law at the international, regional and national levels. The principle of accessibility, which is included in the UNCRPD, aims at removing the barriers to inclusion encountered by people with disabilities, with a view to enabling them to fully exercise the rights protected under this Convention. Article 9 UNCRPD on accessibility entails far-reaching obligations for the States Parties to the Convention that will affect both the private and the public domain in urban and rural areas. This book attempts to fill a gap in the scholarly discussion about the obligations of the UNCRPD with regard to accessibility by providing the first legal interpretation of the accessibility norm and the relevant UNCRPD obligations.

In addition, the EU has made some effort to promote the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities. This effort has taken the form of actions to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities and to mainstream disability considerations in EU legislation in the field of transportation, Services of General Interest, public procurement and structural funds, among others. However, the conclusion of the UNCRPD by the EU is of great importance as it constitutes the first time that the EU has concluded a human rights treaty. In that regard this book attempts to identify the challenges the EU faces after its conclusion of the UNCRPD with regard to the implementation of the Convention through EU law and policies.

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