

Access denied

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VALORISATION ADDENDUM

I was part of an EU Marie Curie Initial Training Network, entitled “Disability Rights Expanding Accessible Markets (DREAM).” The aim of the DREAM network was to develop professionally and educate the next generation of disability policy researchers. Within this network, I worked with other researchers to provide advice to the EU and its Member States with regard to the implementation of the UNCRPD at the national and EU levels. Therefore, the purpose of the research undertaken for this book, within the DREAM project, moved beyond the creation of theoretical frameworks for academic debates, with a view to informing and facilitating legal and policy makers in their pursuit of legal and policy reforms that promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

The findings of this book are directed to multiple target groups. Firstly, this book will be of interest to scholars in the area of international human rights law, because it entails an analysis of the newly introduced human rights principle of accessibility and its corresponding obligations under the UNCRPD. Secondly, the book provides a rich source of information and analysis on the subject of the implementation of a human rights treaty by the EU, for EU scholars. In particular, the book’s exploration of the consequences of the conclusion of the first human rights mixed agreement by the EU and the challenges inherent to the delimitation of competences between the EU and the Member States in implementation of the UNCRPD will be appealing to EU constitutional law and external action experts. In addition, EU law scholars will be interested in the book’s analysis of the inclusion of non-economic values in EU laws and policies.

Thirdly, this book undoubtedly has relevance to EU legal and policy makers, particularly the European Commission. The text of this book contains the first comprehensive legal interpretation of Article 9 UNCRPD on accessibility and related articles. To that end, the research provides a detailed understanding of the obligations by which the EU and its Member States are bound. It also provides a critical analysis of current EU actions in the field of accessibility and proposes legal and policy actions that the EU can take to implement the requirements of the UNCRPD. The book also proposes a mechanism that could be used to coordinate the implementation of the UNCRPD by the EU and the Member States and decide which of the two should take action to implement the obligations of the Convention.

Fourthly, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations can potentially use this book to educate themselves on their rights awarded to them

by the UNCRPD, particularly with regard to accessibility, and to campaign for those rights. This book is especially relevant to EU residents with disabilities and their representative organisations at the EU level.

Lastly, the research outcomes emerging from this book are of particular interest to the CRPD Committee (the Committee in charge of monitoring compliance with the Convention in the various States Parties to the Convention). The Committee might be willing to consider some aspects of the book's interpretation of Article 9 UNCRPD in its work on the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly, in its case law and concluding observations of States Parties' reports. In addition, the book's examination of the competence of the EU to implement the requirements of the UNCRPD, the exploration of the existing EU actions relevant to disability and the proposed recommendations with regard to potential actions the EU can adopt to implement the UNCRPD, could be a useful guidance to the CRPD Committee in its evaluation of EU compliance with the Convention.