

Table of contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background and terms of reference	4
1.2 Definition of ‘austerity measures’	5
1.3 Approach and methodology	5
2. Macroeconomic context.....	9
2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 The economic crisis – status as of May 2012	10
2.3 Measuring the impact of the economic crisis	11
2.3.1 <i>Introduction</i>	11
2.3.2 <i>The impact of the crisis: perspectives of representative organisations of people with disabilities and international agencies</i>	12
2.4 Employment and disability in 2012	19
2.5 Poverty and disability	22
2.6 Mental health impact of the crisis	24
2.7 Opinion and public attitudes	26
3. The impact of the crisis on social services	27
3.1 Introduction.....	27
3.2 General impact on the social services sector	30
3.2.1 <i>Public budget cuts in the ‘social sector’</i>	31
3.2.2 <i>Trends at macro level and structural changes in the social services sector</i>	39
3.2.3 <i>The impact of the crisis on service delivery mechanisms</i>	45
3.3 Impact on specific services for people with disabilities	58
3.2.1 <i>Employment and vocational rehabilitation services</i>	58
3.3.2 <i>Health and social care</i>	63
3.3.3 <i>Independent living</i>	66
3.3.4 <i>Education and vocational training services</i>	68
4. The impact of the crisis on disability-related social security benefits	71
4.1 Introduction.....	71
4.2 Measures impacting on the amount and/or duration of benefits.....	72
4.2.1 <i>Cuts in social security benefit amounts</i>	72
4.2.2 <i>Non-indexation</i>	74
4.2.3 <i>Consideration of non-contributory periods</i>	75
4.2.4 <i>Security contribution deductions from invalidity pensions</i>	75
4.2.5 <i>Increased user charges and cuts in benefits in kind</i>	75

4.2.6 <i>Delayed payments</i>	76
4.3 Measures affecting the conditions for entitlement to benefits	77
4.3.1 <i>Longer qualifying period required</i>	78
4.3.2 <i>Restricted access via redefined means-test</i>	78
4.3.3 <i>Different concept and assessment of ability to work</i>	78
4.3.4 <i>Increased level of need that is required for entitlement</i>	79
4.4 Financial supports and incentives to labour market (re)integration	82
4.4.1 <i>Measures addressing people with disabilities</i>	82
4.4.2 <i>Measures addressing employers</i>	85
4.5 Conclusions	85
 5. Impact of the crisis on the implementation of the UNCRPD	87
5.1 Introduction	87
5.2 Current implementation status of the UNCRPD	89
5.3 Impact on of the crisis on specific articles of the Convention	96