



## **Raquel Castro**

Raquel Castro is social policy senior manager at EURORDIS, the European Organisation for Rare Diseases, where she manages the organisations' activities to advocate for and support the integration of rare diseases into social services and policies.

Raquel is currently in charge of EURORDIS' activities within the EU-funded INNOVCare project, focused on bridging the gaps between health, social and local care for people living with a rare disease. Raquel is also working towards the integration of rare diseases into social services and policies via the ongoing European Joint Action for rare diseases (RD-Action). Previously, Raquel was assigned to the EUCERD Joint Action, managing the work package on Specialised Social Services and Social Policies, which has led to the recently adopted European Commission Expert Group on Rare Diseases Recommendations to Support the Incorporation of Rare Diseases into Social Policies and Services.

Prior to joining EURORDIS, Raquel designed and coordinated the Portuguese Help Line for rare diseases, obtaining a solid experience in dealing with rare disease patients' and families' needs. With over ten years of experience working in not-for-profit organisations, Raquel has also previously been involved in humanitarian and development projects in Europe and in Asia.