



## **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

(Summary)

The disability issues deserve more attention. Solving problems in this area is necessary in order to encourage the social inclusion of disabled people and reach more effective financial arrangements.

Main problems:

- rising number of people with mental problems,
- rising number of people claiming disability payments,
- lack of political willingness to cut the benefits in order to enhance labour participation,
- early retirement due to disability,
- lacking conditions in the workplace and also outside of work,
- lower wages,
- difficult reintegration,
- low number of people returning to work,
- prevalent institutional care in some of the countries.

All the above-mentioned problems have direct or indirect impact on the national, regional and municipal budgets.

The main responsibility is on the member states; they can tackle the problems in the most efficient way. However, the international organizations try to help them and provide the guidance, recommendations or improve the exchange of the information and experience.

The European Union

- has a disability strategy
- introduced the European Day of Disabled People – December 3rd
- introduced the EQUAL initiative also focusing on disability projects
- cooperates with The European Disability Forum (EDF) – NGO fighting for the rights and involvement of disabled people in policy development
- established the Employment and Social Committee in the European Parliament
- has the Disability Intergroup – informal grouping of MEPs cooperating with EDF
- established The High Level Group of Member States' Representatives on Disability
- adopted a Communication on Equal opportunities for people with disabilities: a European action plan
- issued Disability Mainstreaming in the European Employment Strategy
- adopted a decision establishing the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007)

Council of Europe

- adopted the Action Plan promoting the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society in April 2006

The United Nations

- adopted The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in 1993
- will adopt a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.