

Le Forum européen des
personnes handicapées



EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

**Disabled people
contributing to a
region's cultural and
economic wealth**



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European Disability Forum

is a European umbrella organisation representing more than 50 million disabled people in Europe. Its mission is to ensure disabled citizens' full access to fundamental and human rights through their active involvement in policy development and implementation in the European Union.

European Disability Forum



EDF, the voice of disabled people in Europe

- } An independent network of organisations established by persons with disabilities and by their families.
- } The membership includes the national councils of disabled people from all EU and EEA Member States, representing the national disability movements. In addition, there are broad range of organisations representing different disability groups and campaign interests in Europe.

European Disability Forum



Historical view to people with disabilities in Europe

- } Disability policy domestic issue of each Member State.
- } Decision about people with disabilities made by stakeholders and professionals.
- } People with disabilities considered as social service and care user.



Current view to people with disabilities in Europe

- } Cooperation between the European Commission and the Member States.
- } Involving of people with disabilities in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of changes in policies, practises, programmes.
- } Mainstreaming Disability in Policy Formulation.



Why the view have changed

- } More active disability movement
- } Aging of population and work force
- } Increasing rate of unemployment
- } Improving access to and quality of technical equipment
- } Increasing tolerance and understanding between diverse groups of people



Mainstreaming – key word of disability policy in Europe

It is systematic consideration of the specific needs of disabled people which have to be respected when setting up any measures in policies aimed to employment, regional policy, education and training, competition, transport, research and ICT.



Mainstreaming – actions as a horizontal principle, which means that:

- } Mainstreaming the active integration of the disability perspective should be included in all policy areas and at all stages of policy development;
- } Society should be involved as a whole in order to recognise and understand the needs of people with disabilities;
- } All relevant instruments should be mobilised and engaged (legislative measures, action plans, programmes) next to specific actions.



Different levels of mainstreaming policy

- UN Standard rules
- Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015.
- The European Union Disability Strategy.
- National action plan or legislation.
- Agenda 22 – regional strategy



Agenda 22 a model for implementing UN Standard Rules in the local society (HSO)

Agenda 22 is built on some principles :

- △ all people have equal worth
- △ human rights as described in the UN conventions
- △ people are different and have different needs
- △ the right definition of disability
- △ disability organisations are experts on their own matters.



Characteristics of a good plan (HSO)

- Λ is built on the Standard Rules
- Λ produced in co-operation with disability organisations
- Λ mainstreaming
- Λ special attention to the needs of women and children
- Λ the local authority must act as a good example
- Λ secure the future co-operation with the disability organisations
- Λ specified long term objectives
- Λ specification of measures
- Λ how to evaluate the plan.



Agenda 22 implementation in Latvia (SUSTENTO)

- Step 1 – Selection of local coordinator
- Step 2 – Preparation of local community analysis
- Step 3 – Establishment of needs of people with disabilities in local community, prioritising
- Step 4 – Development of disability policy plan in local community
- Step 5 – Agreement with local municipality about implementation disability policy plan
- Step 6 – Monitoring of disability policy plan implementation in local municipality

Pilot areas



Talsi municipality

Al_ksne region

J_kabpils municipality



Local coordinator

- △ Talsi – coordinator don't represent disability organisation nor municipality,
- △ J_kabpils – coordinator is representative from municipality
- △ Al_ksne region – coordinator is representative from organisation of people with disabilities



Community analysis

△ Population

△ Recreation

△ Industrial structure

△ Information

△ Education

△ Non-governmental
organisations

△ Health care

△ Social services

△ Political structure



Needs establishment

- △ Led by professional trainer
- △ Open seminar, where all interested people are invited
- △ All participants had possibility to express their individual needs
- △ Priority needs were identified after the discussions in small groups
- △ Working group was established



Development of disability policy plan in local municipalities of Latvia

Build on:

- } UN Standard Rules
- Δ Represented cross – disability organisations
- Δ Close cooperation with local municipality
- Δ Mainstreaming of disability
- Δ Individual and common measures
- Δ Principle of equal partnership



Agreement with local municipality on implementation of plan

ΔAgreement confirm that both parts are ready to implement this plan;

ΔLocal municipality gets policy plan which supported by target group;

ΔEnsure that plan will be implemented independently of personalities.



Monitoring of disability policy plan implementation

To provide:

Δ Sustainability,

Δ Updates of the plan,

Δ Long term involvement of disability organisations,

Δ Disability awareness raising in local community.



Conclusions

Δ People with disabilities are added value of local community

Δ Local Municipalities in Latvia are ready to be actively involved in development and implementation of Disability Policy plan, if local disability organisations are able to agree on priorities

Δ During development of Disability Policy plan local disability organisations become more active and responsible

Δ Important issues for people with disabilities are highlighted.



Conclusions

Δ To solve part of the problems more than financial resources good will and understanding is needed.

Δ Organisations of people with disabilities are ready to take an active part in implementation of the plan.

Δ During development and implementation of the Disability Policy plan both parts better recognise needs and possibilities of each other.

Δ Implementation of the Disability Policy plan will give better understanding of local resources and skills to use them.