

# **Council of Europe actions to promote human rights and full participation of people with disabilities: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe**

Structure of the presentation by Angela Garabagiu  
for AER session, 28 September 2006, Timisoara.

## **I. Introduction (10:00 -- 10:10)**

- Council of Europe: 800 million Europeans, 46 Member States, European Human Rights Convention, European Social Charter (revised), European Court of Human Rights, PACE, CLRAE, finally -- Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field
- Malaga -- 2003; Warsaw Summit -- 2005: political mandate to set up a Council of Europe Disability Action Plan for the next ten years
- Paradigm Shift -- from patient to citizen
- Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec(2006) 5 of 5 April 2006 -- the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015

## **II. Key Action Lines (10:10 -- 10:20)**

- From departmentalisation to transversal/coordinated action --> "mainstreaming"
- Each AL: Main concept =main areas of life
- Objectives
- Specific Actions by member states
- Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 -- "road map" --> flexible and adaptable to country-specific conditions
- Examples of Action Lines (education, employment, built environment)
- DAP -- Document available on the CoE website --> [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int) --> Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

## **III. Cross-Cutting aspects (10:20 --10:30)**

- Protect against the risk of two-fold discrimination:
  - β women and girls with disabilities
  - β young people w.d.
  - β people w.d. in need of a high level of support
  - β people w.d. from minorities and migrants
  - β ageing of people w.d.

## **IV. Implementation (10:30 -- 10:35)**

- Coordination at international level
- Complementarity:
  - β UN
  - β EU
  - β Council of Europe
  - β INGOs (EDF, etc.)
- Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015: adopted in the framework of the Committee of Ministers chairmanship by Romania in April this year. Officially launched in St Petersburg on 21-22 September (last week) --> St Petersburg Declaration.
- European Coordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 (CAHPAH) , as of 1 January 2007

- First steps : stocktaking at national level.

#### **V. Underlying principles (10:35 --10:40)**

- Human Rights
- Non-discrimination
- Full participation
- Other: Universal Design
  - ↳ Draft Report on Universal Design, examples of good practice
- European regional and local authorities are at the forefront of European reform processes

#### **VI. Future (10:40 – 10:45)**

- Technology: to help, not to hinder
- E-governance
- From e-accessibility to full participation (example: accessible tourism Flanders; accessible public info through physically and virtually accessible Post Offices in the UK)
- **Final aim: a better quality of life for people with disabilities in Europe.**