



You are reading a guide which is a product of the project "Young, Equal, Active & Happy! (YEAH!)" NUMBER- HR-11-E2-2013-R1, Youth exchange.

This guide presents the views of the partners of the Project and will try to make you familiar with the problems and needs of young people with and without disabilities. The guide was made for young people with and without disabilities, social workers, experts who work with young people with or without disabilities, people who make politic decisions in local communities, the European Union members, and the European Union itself. This guide will help make the public aware of the needs of adjusted requests made by young people with and without disabilities.

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EMPLOYMENT

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In Slovenia persons with disabilities have assistants from kindergarten till university. Transport to school or the place of work is provided for them, so they can attend the school they want and choose the job they like.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should actively join into associations of people with disabilities, youth organisations or some other form of Non-governmental organisations for better inclusion into all fields of life and work.

The right of young people with or without disabilities to work should be publicly advocated. The members of EU should be encouraged to implement the laws and conventions, to conduct their measures and create the conditions for employment of young people with or without disabilities.

It is necessary to research the reasons of long-term unemployment of people with disabilities who have potentials for employment and to make plans for their additional training and / or employing. Their status after the completion of their education must be monitored, they must be included into work through specific activities and tasks by a service that would monitor the process of the socialisation and offer help with employment.

Employers should be obliged to accept persons with disabilities for training education.

Employers should be informed and encouraged to employ persons with disabilities through publications, expert conferences about employment, media, individual consultations, job fairs and through giving rewards to employers who are the best examples.

Public institutions which are under the authorities of the state, local or regional government, should be obliged to employ persons with disabilities.

Employers should be given financial support from the government for adjusting the work station for people with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities should receive proper financial compensation for their work, which should be funded by the government.

The work and the workplace should be adjusted to persons with disabilities, not the other way around.

Various courses for training and retraining of persons with disabilities should be organised.

Social entrepreneurship should be created and encouraged.



TOLERANCE AMONG YOUTH

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In Croatia associations of people with disabilities work on projects of psychological support through which young people with disabilities learn how to cope with their disability, how to deal with violence and how to stand up for themselves. Through these activities they gain self-confidence and self-esteem. Young people without disabilities who volunteer in these associations participate in these activities and they can face their own fears which aren't connected to disabilities.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should actively join associations of people with disabilities, youth associations or some other form of Non-governmental organisations for possibility of strengthening their personality and self-confidence.

It is necessary to support youth centres for people with or without disabilities. Young people should be encouraged for active European citizenship through public activities. Mutual understanding between young people from different countries should also be encouraged.

Individual and group psychological and other expert help and support should be given to families and young people with and without disabilities to help them cope with the challenges of youth and disability.

Systematic financing of the work of associations which provide psychological help to young people should be provided.

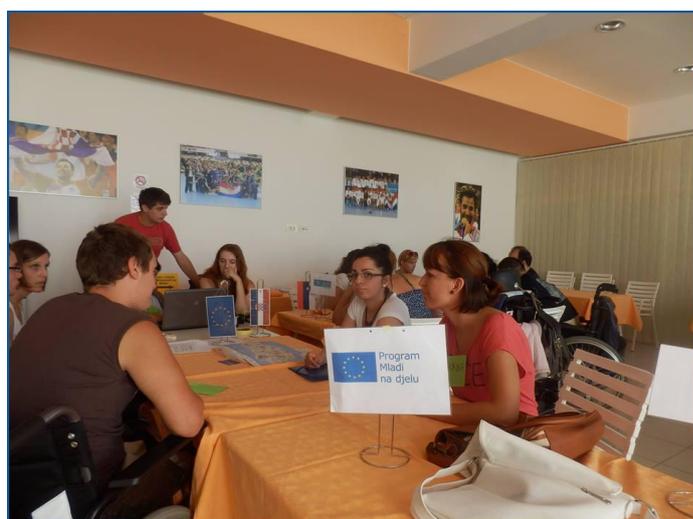
Education and training for experts who work with children and youth (teachers, educators, etc.) should be provided.

Programmes about prevention of violence should be carried out.

Youth should be educated about their fundamental rights and how to recognize when they are being broken.

Young people should be made aware of young people who are different, they should be taught to accept the differences and young people with disabilities should be taught to build a sense of their own worth.

Young people should be educated about acceptable ways of communication with people with disabilities. Young people with disabilities should learn skills of communication with people around them, how to stand up for themselves and how to build self-respect and self-esteem.



UNIVERSITY

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Educational institutions in France are generally accessible for people with disabilities, they have assistants and public transport is also available for persons with disabilities. This gives young people with disabilities a fair chance to choose a university they want, so they don't have to go to a school they don't like just because that is a building they are able to enter.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should actively join associations of people with disabilities, youth associations or some other form of Non-governmental organisations and take part in organised activities for making changes which young people with disabilities would benefit from.

It is necessary to create the system which will control if the laws, the conventions and the declarations about higher education signed by the members of the EU are being followed.

The members of the EU should provide that all the students have the same conditions for higher education, and create the conditions that meet special needs of the students with disabilities.

The university buildings need to be adjusted so that people with disabilities can access them.

Dorms for students need to be built so that they are adjusted to people with disabilities. They should be able to stay in them without stipulating.

Students with disabilities should be granted scholarships without competition.

If students with disabilities have to refund the scholarship because they haven't met the deadline while finishing the term, they should have to refund only part of the money.

Appropriate public transport should be provided in towns so that students with disabilities are able to travel to the university they attend.

The personnel in the university should be educated how to work with children and youth with disabilities.

Inclusion should be implemented, which means that all the subjects in schools, especially Physical Education, needs to be adjusted to persons with disabilities (persons with disabilities won't have to give doctor's notes for passing the subject any more).

Students who have difficult family and financial conditions should be financed individually.

It is necessary to inform and promote higher education among persons with disabilities.

TRAVELLING

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In Slovenian urban transport there are buses in which persons with disabilities can enter in wheel-chairs and there are hotels where people with disabilities are able to stay in. Local communities encourage competitions for places that are specially adapted for guests with disabilities and they give them special awards.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should join associations and influence the local and national authorities to respect the construction laws. The contractors who don't follow the laws about adjusting the buildings for people with disabilities should be reported. Towns and countries should be encouraged by their suggestions to develop tourism adjusted for every person.

It is necessary to create strategies of tourism development adjusted for all people and to adjust public transport (trains and buses).

It is necessary to create conditions for controlling if the laws about adjustment of public buildings for tourists are followed in the local community.

Local communities should encourage adjustment of touristic facilities for people with disabilities. For example, building sports and recreational facilities and adjusting the environment, making walking trails...

“Support service” in railway and bus traffic for people with disabilities should be created, similar to “ground steward” in airports.

Tourist guides for working with people with disabilities should be educated.

Architectural and spatial barriers on the tourist facilities (hotels, hostels, museums, halls, restaurants, coffee bars,...) should be eliminated.

New toilets should be built and current ones should be adjusted to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Public transport used in tourism (vans, taxis) and their prices should be adjusted – the fee for a taxi should be the same regardless whether it is adjusted for people with disabilities or not.



PERSONAL ASSISTENT

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In Croatia there is a personal assistance service and it is provided by associations of persons with disabilities, but not all people in need of assistants are included into this service.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should actively join associations of people with disabilities to exercise their right for personal assistance service. Through activities in the association the government can be influenced to increase the number of people in title of a personal assistant.

It is necessary to introduce a system which will control the implementation of the laws regarding personal assistance service in EU member states.

It is necessary to legalize and systematize personal assistance service for people with disabilities on the state level, with the funding provided by the government.

If the funds coming from the government aren't sufficient, the local community should provide the money from its budget.

People who would like to be personal assistants should be educated through courses in the universities.

Every person in need of a personal assistant should be able to get one, in order to prevent institutionalisation.



SELF-EMPLOYMENT

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Good example in Croatia is Koprivnica, a town which gives subventions for self-employment of persons with disabilities.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should look for information about subventions that are given for self-employment on both national and local level.

Acting through associations and local community through projects, they should build grounds for future self-employment.

The Measures from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities need to be implemented. EU members should be encouraged to include representatives of the associations of people with disabilities into institutions and bodies which work for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Towns and counties should be encouraged in making and implementing local strategies for persons with disabilities.

The public should be sensitized about different forms of organisations (organizing a model of social entrepreneurship).

Social entrepreneurship should be encouraged (the initial funding should be helped by the local community or the government).

All social enterprises should be exempted from paying taxes.



CHANGES IN SOCIETY REGARDING PERCEPTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In France sportspersons with disabilities have great media coverage. This is an extraordinary example of sensitization of the public how to except disabilities.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should join all public activities at all times: public events, sports, cultural and political activities.

Public campaigns for sensitization of the society about people with disabilities need to be carried out continuously.

Campaigns for sensitization of the society about people with disabilities need to be carried out on a local and national level.

Inclusion should be carried out. This means that children should be included into kindergartens and schools, without being categorized as “special needs” groups.

The public should be informed through different programmes (e.g. in libraries and workshops in schools and kindergartens).

The laws should be followed, especially the ones concerning eliminating architectural barriers and enabling people with disabilities approach to different cultural institutions, sports facilities and all public institutions, that is, implementation of so-called universal design.



INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL LIFE

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

A mayor of a certain town in France was a person with a disability. During his term of office, he performed his duties exceptionally well, and for the benefit of all the citizens.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should join political parties or be independent candidates and run for local, parliamentary and EU offices.

The members of the EU should be encouraged to include persons with disabilities into political life, according to the measures of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Young people with and without disabilities should be included into political life both on local and national level, according to National and local strategies for persons with disabilities.

Political parties' youth should be more active so they would make their peers aware that they are the initiators of changes.

Requirements for communication with young people need to be made, so they can be motivated to join political life. Political work should be presented through public forums, round tables or workshops.

Youth parties and young politicians should be included on the lists of candidates.

Political parties and the general public should be notified about people with disabilities (they aren't on the lists because they are "disabled", but because they are competent).



VOLUNTEERING

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

There are very well developed volunteering services in France, Slovenia and Croatia.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should involve in volunteering in their local communities because through volunteering they enrich themselves and others, they meet new people, they get to travel, get extra points in their high school or college applications.

Campaigns and informing through which young people in the EU can get information about volunteering need to be carried out.

In local communities young people should be informed about volunteering through local campaigns. The basic work of volunteer centres should be co-financed.

Persons with disabilities should be informed and motivated for volunteering and become aware of their own abilities and potentials as volunteers.

A system for rewarding young volunteers should be introduced. Volunteering can be introduced as a motivation for gaining extra points when applying for scholarships, accommodation in dorms or when applying for a job.



SPORTS

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Sportspersons with disabilities are in a very good position in France and slovenia. They are financed from the government and they have media coverage.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should join sports clubs. Sports gives them an opportunity to prove themselves as very successful young people, to travel in countries they would probably never visit on their own. As successful sportspersons they will be respected and acknowledged members of their community. This is very important for every young person.

Young people with disabilities should be encouraged to do sports. Sport for people with disabilities should be promoted through public events and the media.

Sports among young people should be promoted and sensitization for doing sports should be promoted on local and national level.

Basic activities of sports clubs for young people with disabilities should be co-financed by the government.

It is necessary to build sports facilities appropriate for everybody and adjusted for people with disabilities.

Possibility of including assistants in sports for persons with disabilities should be created.



PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In Slovenia there are so-called residential communities. In Croatia there are ones only for persons with intellectual difficulties, where they live with support and they are able to get married. Residential communities or organized housing is arranged in a local community, house or in a flat. Several people with disabilities or some other form of difficulties (e.g. psychological or intellectual) live in such communities, from four to six persons simultaneously, depending on the size of a house or a flat. In this form of residence, users have all the obligations regarding the housekeeping, cooking, doing the laundry and all the other things that families do. What is special about this community is that the users have support of professionals all day long.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Young people should join the associations and through their activities influence people who make laws to create good conditions for life of young people, especially young people with disabilities. It is necessary to advocate and promote independent life of young people with and without disabilities.

Members of the UN should be encouraged to create good conditions for independent life.

It is necessary to create conditions for preventing institutionalizing persons with disabilities.

It is necessary to pass a law about a sexual therapist for persons with disabilities (rights should be the same for persons with disabilities or homosexual orientation).

It is necessary to finance sexual therapy through Health Insurance Act Law

The public should be informed about people with disabilities as sexual beings and they should be able to start families with their partners if that is what they want. If they need it, their families should get assistants.

It is necessary to provide sexual therapy or sex life to persons with intellectual difficulties and to people whose legal capacities have been taken away.

Appropriate apartments in which young people could live on their own, regardless if they need help or not, should be built.

