

# Observatory on the impact of the crisis on the rights of persons with disability

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# 1. EDF Who are we?

- An independent NGO
- The umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities in Europe
- The front runners for disability rights













# 6. EDF observatory

# on the impacts of the crisis

Why?

How?

- Several complaints and requests for EDF support from its members
- Persons with disabilities and their Disabled Persons' Organisations mobilised themselves in their countries to monitor the crisis as it stroke their lives
- 2011 EDF collects national examples of austerity measures through an on-line questionnaire
- Focus is on direct effect on social inclusion and violation of the UN CRPD.





# 6.1. Impacts of the austerity

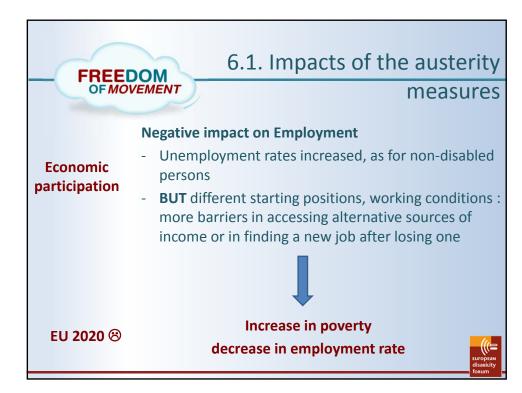
#### measures

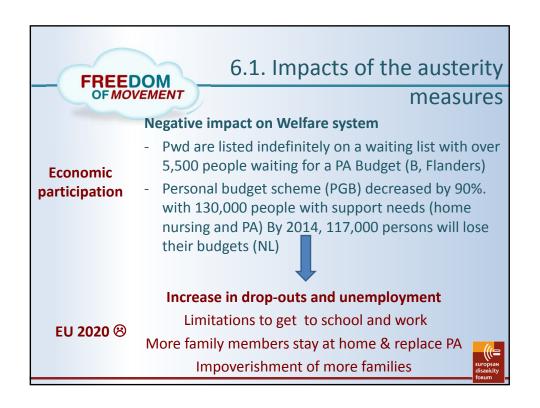
The austerity measures have negative effects on:

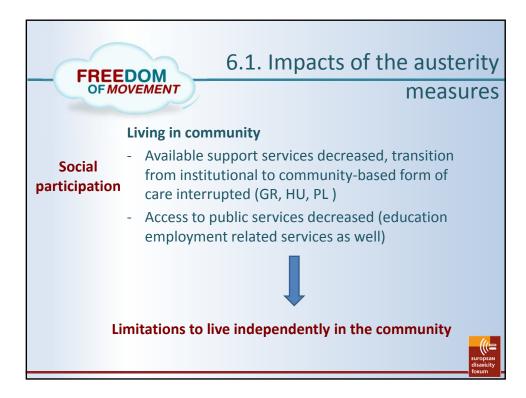
- •the economical participation
- •the social participation
- •the freedom of movement

The consequences are in total contradiction with the strategy Europe 2020











#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

#### 6.2. Trends identified

- Reassessment of disability status
- Cuts in disability allowances and benefits
- More taxes, less income, more poverty
- Reductions in local authorities' budgets
- Review of funding resources for activities of DPOs
- Austerity measures without consultation with DPOs



Reduced economic, social and political participation



#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

# 6.2. Trends identified

Too many disabled persons (B,GR,HU,I,UK)

- Accuse of disabled people to fraud the system
- re-assessment

  Reassessment of disability status to shrank welfare system (reduction in disability pension for 2012 without increase in equal opportunity measures (HU)
  - Changes in assessment criteria for needs of disabled persons resulted in decrease PA hours granted (S)
  - Reassessment of students' disability status delay in new certificates thus in request for support (I)

Negative stereotypes of disabled persons
Increase in social exclusion



#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

#### 7. Conclusions

- Austerity measures applied in the crisis in the field of disability will endanger national targets in EU 2020
- Poverty and economic inactivity of disabled persons IS NOT NATURAL, it is the result of unjust structures in our societies.
- Budget cuts affecting the rights of persons with disability might seem to be economic on the short run but will have more severe consequences on the long run
- Austerity measures must respect rights of disabled persons laid down in the UN Convention and should not hinder implementation measures



#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

# 7. Conclusions

- Economic, social and political measures during the crisis must protect people with disabilities
- Austerity measures affecting exercise of fundamental, economic, social and political rights of persons with disabilities
   >will not lead to long term solution for the society
   >BUT will postpone development of equal opportunities for disabled persons and transfer the task to future governments

THE RIGHT WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS IS THE INVESTMENT IN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS!



