

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

Erzsébet Földesi EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

ANED annual conference 11/11/2011



www.edf-feph.org

1. EDF Who are we?

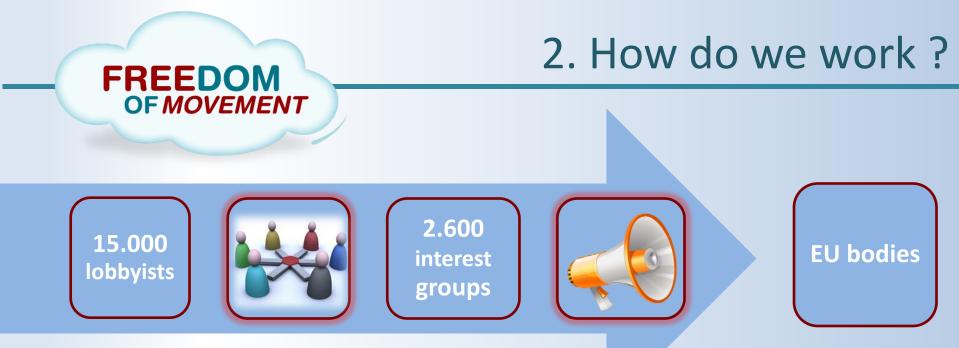


- An independent NGO

 The umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities in Europe

- The front runners for disability rights





We make our voice heard towards the EU Institutions

We consult NGOs, industry, consumers & social partners

We provide real expertise to decision-makers



3. What do we want ?







4. Our achievements





















6. EDF observatory

on the impacts of the crisis

- 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.



Why?

FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT

How?

measures

The austerity measures have negative effects on:

- the economical participation
- the social participation

FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT

•the freedom of movement

The consequences are in total contradiction with the strategy Europe 2020



measures

Negative impact on Employment

Economic participation

FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT

- Unemployment rates increased, as for non-disabled persons
- **BUT** different starting positions, working conditions : more barriers in accessing alternative sources of income or in finding a new job after losing one

Increase in poverty decrease in employment rate





measures

Negative impact on Welfare system

- Pwd are listed indefinitely on a waiting list with over
 5,500 people waiting for a PA Budget (B, Flanders)
- Personal budget scheme (PGB) decreased by 90%.
 with 130,000 people with support needs (home nursing and PA) By 2014, 117,000 persons will lose their budgets (NL)

Increase in drop-outs and unemployment

Limitations to get to school and work More family members stay at home & replace PA Impoverishment of more families



Economic participation

FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT

EU 2020 🛞

measures

Living in community

Social participation

FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT

- Available support services decreased, transition from institutional to community-based form of care interrupted (GR, HU, PL)
- Access to public services decreased (education employment related services as well)

Limitations to live independently in the community



measures

Freedom of movement

FREEDOM

OF MOVEMENT

- UK 80.000 disabled care home residents will lose mobility support, making it difficult to visit family, friends and participate in other community activities

Right to personal mobility is violated



6.2. Trends identified

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- 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



6.2. Trends identified

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

- Accuse of disabled people to fraud the system

FREEDOM

OF MOVFMFNT

- 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



7. Conclusions

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- 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



7. Conclusions

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- 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!





THANK YOU!

