



Health and disability in Hungary (V4 roundtable Bratislava 23rd, June, 2017)

The National Federation of Associations of Persons with Physical Disabilities (“MEOSZ”) was established by stakeholder-persons 36 years ago, as a non-profit, non-governmental, independent umbrella organisation. MEOSZ represents more than 100 member associations made up of almost 1 000 local groups, and 160.000 individual members from all over Hungary up today. The overall goal of MEOSZ is to identify and eliminate social obstacles, prejudices and all forms of discrimination in order to cease segregation of persons with physical disabilities within the society. Association fights against all types of discrimination using high level of expertise in different fields and dedicated to achieve equal opportunities and full participation in the society for all persons with physical disabilities living in Hungary by representing, protecting and promoting their interests and advocating for their rights. For more information, please visit www.meosz.hu

In Hungary history of disability was built up on the medical treatment for long time. Successful result of the long, supported with unquestionable arguments and functioning well in practise examples from other countries fight of the DPO-s medical model slowly and partly started to turn into another „noname“ medium model which is not the expected classical social model yet but at the same time it is no the typical medical model longer.

Birth and development of the habilitation and rehabilitation began their strange and unique way within the departments of traumatology and orthopedy behind the medical treatment. Understanding the necessity and advantage of the complex (including social aspects beside the medical fields) has been led by the medical professors and experts. First Hungarian translation and adaptation of the International Classification of Functioning was made, monitored and published by one of the most famous doctor-specialists in 2012. Looking back we should say that after the promising flying start the procedure turned into false path as the disability policy accepted the new system fast using practically almost everywhere instead of ISI but the real change in minds and everyday life shows different picture.

Changing in the system of assessment of people with disabilities brought up a huge and painful political scandal within the disability society as a consequence of the new principles (but better to say misunderstanding the principles of ICF) a great deal of persons with disabilities have fallen out of the governmental providing system and therefore stay without any financial and service support despite their disabilities.

Real rehabilitation (could lead to the active participation in the society and long-time health) of persons with reduced mobility is tied to the institutional system providing specialty healthcare services, and community based or rehabilitation in close proximity to residence is not ensured in Hungary. Significant number of complaints is received by civil society organizations claiming that medical treatment is not followed by continuous rehabilitation treatment appropriate to the patient’s condition, in sufficient number/intensity.

State-supported, personalized rehabilitation, in the course of which children born and living with disabilities, young people and adults with disabilities acquired at a later age learn to cope with challenges of everyday life, is a service required and indispensable, yet unavailable until this very day in Hungary regarding children and adults with disabilities. Nor rehabilitation, neither promoting peer support, mentoring related closely to it has been implemented. Recreation and prevention is completely missing.

After our „victory“ persons with disability are not considered patient any longer but at the same time in case of their illness practically they can be closed out of the proper and up to date treatment procedures as at the moment the Hungarian health system is unable and unwilling to deal with an ill person with disabilities.

Undecidebly huge shortage of accessibility in the institutions of presented field and the lack of up to date dsability-awareness of the health staff has been criateng and continuously remaining totally segregation and vulnerability of ill patients with different dsabilty.

Unfortunately people living with severe or multiple disabilities often do not receive even basic medical treatment and basic patient information. It's because doctors and health professionals are not able to communicate with them and treat them properly as they are not trained correctly about disabilities, or the persons concerned are not able to access any medical treatment because of the geographical inequalities of services and the lack of specialized health care providers.

Our generation has got in heritage a two-faced financial supporting system by the governmental ensurance for certain groups of medicines, nursery and assistive tools. Provision of people with severe disability is come under the law, for persons living in the extreme poverty is normatively and mostly elderly people is provided on s fair basis. The latest form is depend on decision of the local self-governments that are almost always shortage of finance.

The Hungarian governmental policy has been putting a great emphasis and builds a contrywide campaigns on increasing of preventive screenings of different cancer deseases. It is one of the basic goals of the Hungarian health-care policy as Hungary has been sitting on the shameful first place on the wordwide list of the cause of death connected wih ccancer deseases for already a long time.

Lack of sensitive social services within and out of the Hungarian health system (accessibility, personal supporting assistance, voluntary support) and community supports to persons with different disabilities and their families often result in revolving doors between residential institutions and psychiatric wards, neither of them capable to respect their rights and provide adequate services.

Following the latest announcement of the National Federation of Associations of Persons with Physical Disabilities it become simply clear that people with disability hardly or totally unable to obtain colonoscopy and other screenings and in way a certain group of society is faced a deep danger as people with disabilities fall out of that important health-service.

According to the members and experts of the National Federation of Associations of Persons with Physical Disabilities opinion, the Government does not fulfill its obligations laid down in Article 25 of the CRPD since it -has not adopted any strategy or programs (with initial indicators, criteria, time frames) in order to ensure that disabled people – by providing adequate support - can exercise their right to life-long health.

As our Federation's claim is to reach the main goals to eliminate the obstacles, constuctivity is the using method in the mentioned procedure we try to get to the circle of the strategial partners of the government in disability field. Reaction is already not our responsibility. But up today it has stayed unilateral cooperation offer from the side of the National Federation of Associations of Persons with Physical Disabilities.