

Disability Strategies and Policies in The Republic of Serbia

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General framework

- The Constitution (2006) – recognition of persons with disability
- UN CRPD + Optional Protocol - ratified in July 2009
- National Strategy for Improvement of Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia (2007-2015)

Key Institutions/bodies

- Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy – Persons with Disabilities Support Department
- Directorate for Human and Minority Rights – Report on Implementation of CRPD
- Government's Council for Persons with Disabilities – relevant ministries, directorates and organizations of persons with disabilities

Independent bodies

- Ombudsman
 - Deputy for persons with disabilities and elderly
 - Council for the rights of persons with disabilities and elderly
- The Commissioner for Protection of Equality
 - Working group on disability legislation

ANTIDISCRIMINATION

- The Law on Prevention of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
- The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (2009)
- National Strategy for Prevention of Discrimination (under development)
 - Working group on Disability

(Inclusive) EDUCATION

- The Law on Fundamentals of Education System (2009)
- The Rulebook on additional educational, health and social support to the child and pupil
- The Rulebook on detailed guidelines for determining the right to the individual education plan (IEP), and its implementation and evaluation

(Inclusive) EDUCATION

- Every child must be enrolled into school at the age 6,5 – 7,5
- Individual approach – individual education plan + additional support
- Interdepartmental Commission (Local Self-government, Education, Social Protection and Health system)
- Project *Delivery of Improved Local Services* (World Bank loan – www.dils.gov.rs); UNICEF

Education - Challenges and issues

- Medical approach and discrimination
- Accessibility of schools
- Further training for education providers and other professionals
- Lack of funds and resources for additional support in local communities
- Monitoring and data, including drop-out rate and transfer from mainstream to special school

EMPLOYMENT - legal framework

- The Law on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (2009, implementation started in May 2010)
 - Obligation of employment of persons with disabilities
- Rulebook on monitoring the performance of obligations of employment of people with disabilities and the way of proving the fulfilment of obligation
- Rulebook on more detailed manner, costs and criteria for evaluation of work ability and opportunities for employment or maintaining employment of persons with disabilities
- Rulebook on detailed conditions, criteria and standards for the implementation of measures and activities of vocational rehabilitation

Affirmative measures

- **Centre for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities** in National Employment Agency
- **Budgetary Fund for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities**
- Reimbursement of costs of supporting people with disabilities who are employed under special conditions:
 - Reimbursement of costs of assistance on work place;
 - Reimbursement of costs for adaptation of work place
- Subsidies for salaries for employment of person with disability without work experience
- Public Works – employment of persons with disabilities
- Subsidies for opening new jobs/work places
- Self-employment subsidies to unemployed persons with disabilities

Challenges and issues

- Medical approach to evaluation of work ability
- Registry, data and statistics
- “Policy” of employers to pay penalties rather than to employ person with disability
- Gap between qualifications of persons with disabilities and demands of employers
- Recognition of legal capacity

Social protection

- ***The Law on Social Protection*** (march 2011)
 - reform and innovation
- Diversification of social services, providers and introduction of licensing and accreditation (Chamber of Social Protection)
- Groups of local community social services for persons with disabilities:
 - daily services in the community – a day care centre, help in home;
 - support services for independent living - supported housing, personal assistance, training for independent living and other support necessary for active participation of users in the society;
- the criteria for placement in residential institutions, including accommodation in small residential units

Social protection

- Financial social assistance
- Allowance for assistance and care of another person
- Increased allowance for assistance and care of another person
- Direct support to parents of children with disabilities who take care of their children in the family surroundings
- Special fund for dedicated transfers to the poorest local communities explicitly intended for the development of certain services

Challenges and issues

- Rulebooks, Standards and Guidelines still in development
- Local self-governments' capacities and resources
- Centres for Social Work – new approach and role
- Development of services within residential institutions

Other general issues and challenges

- Harmonization of regulations in Social Protection, Education, Health care, Family care and other relevant systems
- Legal capacity and rights of persons living in residential institutions
- Adoption of Action plan for Implementation of National Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities for period (2012) 2013-2015