



MAKING LIFE A SAFE ADVENTURE

What have we learned from the Daphne project in Hungary?





ÉFOÉSZ AND THE DAPHNE PROJECT

ÉFOÉSZ - Hungarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Foundation: 1981

National umbrella organization

22 000 individual members and 25 local branches

Aims: Advancing the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities and providing services

DAPHNE project: ÉFOÉSZ is partner from 2008

Duration of the project: 1 year

Aims of the project:

Translation and Dissemination of the booklets,

Childhood, Disability & Violence and Making life a safe adventure

Exploration of the problem in Hungary

Changing of experiences



ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN HUNGARY

- Seminars for professionals
- Conference for professionals, parents, people with intellectual disabilities
- Dissemination of the booklets (1000 pieces)
- Training for the mentors of self-advocacy groups
- Small survey with the participation of young people with intellectual disabilities



HOW DOES THE HUNGARIAN LEGISLATION HANDLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Hungary signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 and ratified it in 1991 (Act LXIV of 1991 on the promulgation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Act No XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Guardianship Administration

Hungarian Constitution: Section 67, „Every child has the right to enjoy the care and protection of their families and by the State and society”

Act on the Protection of Children: Section 6 „Every child has the right to protection against physical, sexual and emotional violence and neglect...”

„No child shall be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading, treatment or punishment”

PROBLEMS OF THE LEGISLATION

Legislation in child protection is relatively good

PROBLEMS:

No special legal definition of domestic violence

Basically a question of criminal law (26 crimes and 4 offences such as battery, endangering of a minor, harrasment from 2008)

Criminal law is just the last resort – other legal solutions for less dangerous acts

Hungarian child protection system – problems in implementation



EXPERIENCES OF THE MEETINGS

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS IN PRACTICE?

- Problems in information flow or lack of information
- Lack of aligned co-operation
- Lack of statistical data about the maltreatment of children with disabilities and high latency
- High percentage of fluctuation amongst professionals in child protection system
- Need for trainings on the special needs of children with disabilities

EXPERIENCES OF THE MEETINGS II.

- Problems in communication and in recognizing maltreatment
- Private-social affair?
- Professionals as „controls” in the life of the family
- Families wait to ask for help till the very last moment
- Patriarchal approach in society and the rights of parents are tend to thought to be stronger
- Plenary guardianship and big residential institutions





SURVEY INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

Survey with the participation of 55 young people with intellectual disabilities (mainly self-advocates)

Different ages, cognitive abilities, living conditions, regions of the country etc.

Types of questions:

Questions about the different forms of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, negligence) with pictures- Yes or no and explanatory questions

Key issues:

Recognition, Emotional impact, Opinion, Occurrence rate, Possible solutions for the problem



OUTCOMES OF THE SURVEY I.

Most of the respondents recognized the different forms of maltreatment - Especially physical maltreatment and neglect

Almost half of the respondents experienced physical and emotional violence in their own lives – Only 9% stated the occurrence of sexual abuse

Almost all the respondents were aware that these acts are morally and legally inappropriate and prohibited – They were more indulgent regarding neglect (14.5%), than physical abuse (only 3 respondents)



OUTCOMES OF THE SURVEY II.

Very intense feelings in connection with sexual abuse – disgusting, outrageous, shocking...

Physical abuse –physical pain...

Emotional abuse, neglect – solidarity, sadness, heartbreaking event...

Wide range of solutions -

discussion, comfort, asking for help, calling the police, aggressiveness in some cases...

„I would transform the slap into caressing”, „They would talk like two adults”, „I would show the little boy to his mother”...



OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Carrying on the work with the self-advocacy groups
- Trainings for professionals on the special needs of persons with intellectual disabilities
- Compilation of a data base on useful information about what to do and where to go in case of violence against children with disabilities
- Closer involvement of our local branches
- Translation and publication of an easy-to-read Lebenshilfe booklet on the prevention of sexual abuse



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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