



MAKING LIFE A SAFE ADVENTURE

ROADMAP FOR THE PREVENTION OF MALTREATMENT OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

FENACERCI (Federação Nacional de Cooperativas de Solidariedade Social), the Portuguese National Federation of Social Solidarity Cooperatives, is a body comprised of cooperatives for people with intellectual and multiple disabilities. Its mission is to defend the interests and rights of these people and their families through the strengthening of its associate members.

FENACERCI was founded on 12 April 1985 and is a non-profit organisation representing 51 Social Solidarity Cooperatives throughout Portugal. Directly or indirectly, these cooperatives cater for around 8,000 children, young people and adults with disabilities as well as their families.

Since its creation in 1985, FENACERCI has been expanding the scope of its operations. Their main objectives are:

- To promote the recognition of people with intellectual disabilities rights, to defend their interests and those of their families.
- To ensure that services offered to people with intellectual disabilities are appropriate, with high quality, and treat people with dignity.
- To cooperate and engage in dialogue with other institutions in order to ensure that political and legal reforms are implemented and appropriate financial support is in place so that conditions of social integration can be improved.
- To inform and raise awareness among the general public, through the media, to bring about a change in attitudes that will allow a better integration of people with intellectual disabilities.

FENACERCI, being a partner of project “Making a Life a Safe Adventure” integrates the objectives and the mission of this project in their strategy and action. The theme of violence and maltreatment in people with intellectual and multiple disabilities is a pioneer theme in Portugal, that needs theoretical and empiric investigation and FENACERCI started this work with this project.



The **“Roadmap for the prevention of maltreatment of people with intellectual and multiple disabilities”** is an innovation and is a pioneer product, developed with and for the associates of FENACERCI.

This roadmap is a guidance tool for organizations and its professionals, as regards the aspects of prevention of the maltreatment of people with intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities. This instrument is the result of two previous projects DAPHNE, more extensive, and has as main objective to highlight the most important aspects of ourselves and discuss some of the ideas developed in them.

The first of these projects – “Childhood, Disability & Violence” – developed a more theoretical, over the definition of concepts, models and approach to the topic of risk factors and protection. In order to better understand the scope of activities of organizations working with people with disabilities were carried out case studies and describes some best practices in prevention.

In the second project - Making Life a Safe Adventure - was developed in the field from which it was intended to ascertain the perceptions of young adults, families and professionals in relation to different risk factors and protection in the field of elder abuse and disability. This work resulted in a series of ideas that were subsequently discussed with the target groups in question (people with intellectual disabilities, family and work) and the results served to the creation of this document.

The methodology adopted used previous projects outcomes, to promote reflection, we have developed two regional focus-groups (Lisbon and North) with 18 associates, who involved 19 self-advocates, 22 specialists, 17 “front line staff” and 15 families. The auscultation of all the involved persons and associates have confirmed the results obtained in the previous investigation, and consolidates the Portuguese reality and the opinion of people with intellectual disabilities, professionals and families about the maltreatment of people with disability. During this work sessions we have promoted the reflection about the role of the organizations in the promotion, protection and prevention of maltreatment. The professionals and the parents manifested, in this sessions, the urgency of creating a guideline document on how to prevent and



act in a situation of maltreatment and neglect found on their customers, both in organizational and family contexts.

The Roadmap aims to be an instrument for measuring risk factors and protection for people with disabilities. In this sense, drew up some guidelines that show possible situations of risk for people with disabilities and that enable professionals and organizations working with this population, to identify situations of risk and vulnerability to the occurrence of abuse.

It should be noted that this is a test document, will be subject to a validation process (and future translation to English) that FENACERCI will develop through application and implementation of a new national project.

The “Roadmap for the prevention of maltreatment of people with intellectual and multiple disabilities” consists of two parts: the first of the theoretical framework and second, the diagnostic tool.

The diagnostic tool, the part that characterizes and distinguishes the importance of the roadmap for organizations and professionals in the field of rehabilitation, presents a set of dimensions and indicators of risk and protection, by assigning a weighting by size and indicator enables profiling with the risk of people with disabilities and their families, the following dimensions:

- Emotional/Affective;
- Biological;
- Developmental Disabilities;
- Behavioral Problems;
- Health;
- Security;
- Feeding;
- Hygiene;
- Clothing;
- Education;
- Family;
- Home;
- Finances;



- Social Context;
- Person with disability;
- Sexual Abuse;
- Physical Abuse.

Each dimension is composed of a weighting scale, designed to measure the degree of risk and protection of disabled people in the set of 17 dimensions.

In applying this diagnostic tool, were designed a set of success factors to take into account in this assessment process:

- **Multidisciplinary team** (for example in considering behavior characteristics specific disability);
- **Planning** (gather all information needed to complete assessment process);
- **Filling the instrument - checklist** (answering all items with precision and objectivity);
- **Attitude before assessment process** (communicate results inside the organization and to people involved. Establish an individual intervention plan, involving everyone and that keeps the safety of people with disabilities).

FENACERCI as partner of this project, supported by the Daphne III, recognizes the importance for theme of violence and maltreatment with people with disability and the necessity for developing a strategy to combat and raise awareness of domestic violence and victimization of people with disabilities through this Roadmap.