

## **List of issues recommendations to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Submitted by EFOESZ's Self-Advocacy Group**

### **Introduction**

Our group was formed in 2016 in Budapest. The group has altogether 10 members living with intellectual disabilities. 2 of them are working as mentors/peer-supporters of the group. The group's first topic was self-knowledge, then we talked about how we can spend our free time usefully. Now we talk about our rights. For example we are learning together about the UN Convention and deinstitutionalization. People with intellectual disabilities are often not able to enforce their rights. This is because they either do not access necessary information, or face social or legal barriers. Self-advocacy is important for us to stand up for our rights and for those of our peers. With the help of decision-makers, we would like to create a more inclusive society.

Our goal is to learn our rights. After we have learned them, we can share this knowledge to our peers in ways which are accessible for them. Later on, we would like to build a self-advocacy network and work together with other groups in Hungary. To fight together against discrimination and to challenge stereotypes. We would like to be active citizens and raise awareness in society. To tell everyone, that just because we face disadvantages, we are people like anyone else.

Currently, independent living has been our main priority. Nowadays, this is a relevant subject in Hungary. It is strongly related to Article 19 of the Convention, so we would like to ask questions about this subject. While writing these questions, we worked together with self-advocates who had lived in an institution earlier, but are now living independently with the right support.

## **Independent living in Hungary (Article 19)**

In Hungary, there are many people with disabilities living in large institutions. They are mostly persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, psychosocial disabilities, and complex needs. These institutions often have 8 or 10 people in one room. There are also cases, when 2 or 3 people are living together in very small rooms. People in these facilities do not have any privacy. They are often not allowed to decide, when and what to eat. Many times they are not allowed to go out of the institutions. These facilities are often placed on the edges of towns. Residents do not meet other people, so they cannot be part of the community. In large institutions, independent living is impossible.

In Hungary the first phase of deinstitutionalization had finished. Almost 700 people moved to smaller facilities. The second phase is going to start soon. This means that in the coming years many people with disabilities will move out from institutions. Both phases are paid from EU funds. Apart from this no measures has been taken. There are just a few supported living facilities. There some good examples, but there is still a lot of work to do. The Government promised to finish the DI process until 2036.

To have a paid job is essential to live independently. There are not many workplaces in Hungary, where persons with intellectual disabilities could work. Companies usually do not want to employ us.

We also need access to information and to services to live independently.

Society is not inclusive enough. There are not enough professionals to support people with disabilities, who want to live independently. There are no trainings for residents of institutions, for support persons, and for parents. Parents are often afraid to let their children with disabilities live independently. We think that everyone is able to be independent with the right support.

We need to make our own decisions to be independent. We are very glad that supported decision making is part of the new Civil Rights Code. This means that a person is not deprived

of his/her legal capacity, but gets support to take decisions. The problem is that not many people with disabilities use this opportunity. Persons with intellectual disabilities and their families do not know about it. And judges still place people under guardianship instead of advising supported decision making. The Government does not spend enough money on raising awareness in this matter. There are no national campaigns advocating for supported decision making instead of guardianship.

- 1. Why have institutions in Hungary not been closed already?**
- 2. Why is 2036 the deadline of deinstitutionalization?**
- 3. In what ways does the Government involve civil society organizations and persons with intellectual disabilities in the DI process?**
- 4. Why are there not more workplaces in Hungary, where also persons with intellectual disabilities could find a job?**
- 5. Why does Hungary not pay special attention to physical accessibility and access to information?**