

# Disability Strategies and Policies in The Republic of Serbia

Bojan Stanojlović

[bojan.stanojlovic@idis.rs](mailto:bojan.stanojlovic@idis.rs)

[idis.serbia@gmail.com](mailto:idis.serbia@gmail.com)

# 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](http://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**