

National report



LLP-ERASMUS
Intensive Programme

Internet advanced promotional tools application for increasing awareness
of social exclusions movement

Social exclusion of handicap people in Germany

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Lifelong
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Programme

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Introduction

Everyday millions of people in our society are faced, even penalized or disadvantaged with the conditions of disability. However, what does disability actually mean? When is a person/ a nature distinguished as handicapped? Is the marking fair, objective? Or do we often tend for subjective decisions? How is our behavior towards the handicapped people? Do we expel them or are we ready to come on compromises? Who are the handicapped persons? Are they hindered and how can one distinguish them? In order there would never be an end to set up such questions. In the first regard you don't know whether the person has acquired the impediment to himself later or whether he had this already with the birth. To be fixing a unique, affirmative definition is difficult, because every individual has another image. Therefore we try to represent the notion of the generality.

In the past, disabled people have been stigmatized and treated as different from the rest of society. They have been identified as the problem, and solutions have focused on trying to adapt the handicapped to the world around them. Design for all, however, considers that disabled people's accessibility needs with respect to the built environment should be seen in the same light as other, more widespread limitations experienced by all members of society.

Not only national or local governments but also from a social point of view an increasing number of disabled people is in a very disadvantageous position, like a lack of right, fair working conditions or simply everyday life problems mainly initiated by our very passive society. As a result the majority of disabled people have a lack of commitment. According to statistics out of 8.6 million officially registered disabled people in Germany, two of every hundreds have to face genetic problems since birth or during pregnancy.

6.7 million are severely disabled and 19 million are registered to be slightly disabled. Still, it must be asked what "disabled" means.¹

From the point of view "The German Social Security Code", which defines disability as restraining physical functions, intellectual skills or mental health" are likely to deviate more than just temporarily and hence their participation in the life of the community is adversely affected."² What you could read between the lines in this quotation is that disabled people tend to become outsiders, but trying to fight against this situation.

¹ Sommer-Guist, C. (2008)

² Sommer-Guist, C. (2008)

Supported by the German constitution's third of the Basic Law, which has certain parallels to human rights, claims that "Nobody may be discriminated on the basis of his or her disability."³ Acts like "The General Equal Treatment Act of 2006" underlines the awareness of every German citizen. Disabled people must have a non-problematic access to public institutions, buildings, offices and of course to society to feel integrated and accepted by their environment.

This demand does not depend on the people's level of disability. Due to non-profit organizations like "AktionMensch" disabled people are more and more accepted and welcome to act freely and confidently in society because of emotionally touching slogans like "We are not disabled ourselves, it is the environment that disables us."⁴

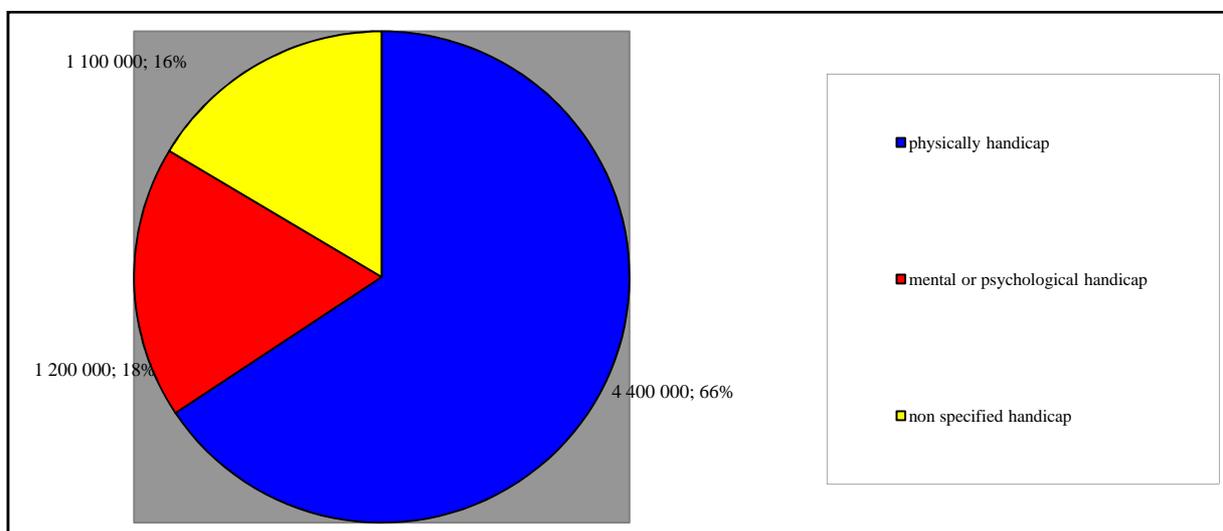
³ Sommer-Guist, C. (2008)

⁴ Sommer-Guist, C. (2008)

1. Level and Structures of handicapped People

Before continued with the statistics of handicap people exclusion in Germany, we would only give you a general overview of the number of disabled people in Germany. Unfortunately, there was no exact value on how many disabled people lived Germany in 2004. The following statistics are from 2005. In 2005, 8.6 million handicap people lived in Germany what makes a total share of 10.43% of the population that means that almost every 10th person in Germany has to live with a handicap. Out of them it is 46% women and 54% men. The number of the people who had one of them Severe severely handicapped (at least a 50% restrictions on daily life) of 6.7 million people and the number of people with moderate handicap was 1.9 million.⁵ 4.4 million people were physically handicap, 1.2 million people had a mental or psychological handicap and 1.1 million had a handicap which was not specified. By 308 thousand people was the handicap inborn, by 5.6 million people the handicap came from an general illness, 156 thousand people got there handicap by an accident or from an occupational disease, 96 thousand people by a recognized war-, military- or civilian service damage and 586 thousand people get there handicap by any other cause.⁶

Figure 1. Types of handicaps in Germany in the year 2005⁷



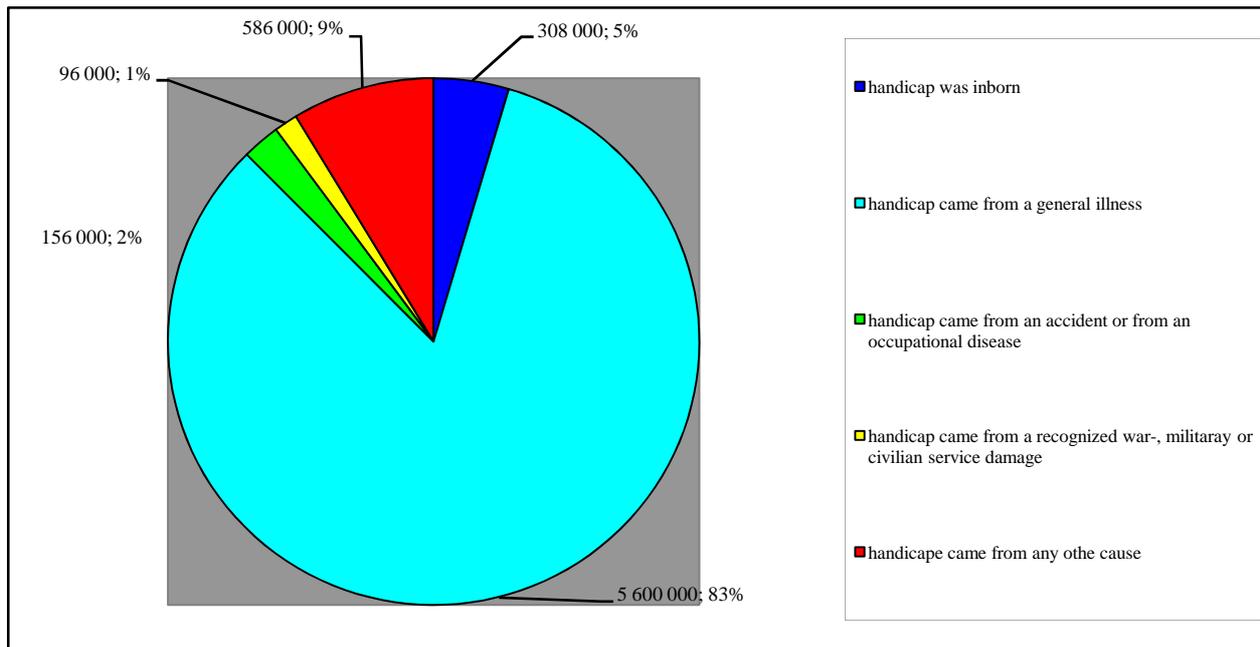
Source: Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden

⁵ H. Pfaff et al. (2007) : p. 1268

⁶ Destatis Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden (2012)

⁷ Destatis Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden (2012)

Figure 2. Causes of handicap in Germany in the year 2005⁸



Source: Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden

Statistics about the exclusion of handicapped people do not exist. But there is other existing statistic of the existing defects of the live quality of handicap people. Where it can be assumed that in these parts are a disadvantage of handicap people existed. The figures make it clear from the school year 2003/2004, that most of handicap children and young people, who visit the special school for handicap children finished school without a degree (80%). Only 18% were leaving the school with a secondary modern school qualification, 2% with a high-school diploma or higher education⁹. These figures suggest that disabled children / young people are disadvantaged in the education system and have not been supported.

If you look at the number of general educational attainment of disabled people, the above mentioned trend is also reflected there. In 2005, a total of 6% of handicap women and 5.6% of handicapped men had no education. 62.4% of handicap men and 61.8% women had a primary or secondary modern school education end, 22.2% of handicap women and 17% men had had a high-school diploma and 7.5% of handicap women and 9.8% of men had a comparable to a university entrance exam or a general qualification for university entrance. In contrast, the educational attainment of non-disabled people in Germany was much higher. So had 3.4% of women and 2.7% of men without handicaps no education, 43% of women and 41.4% of men

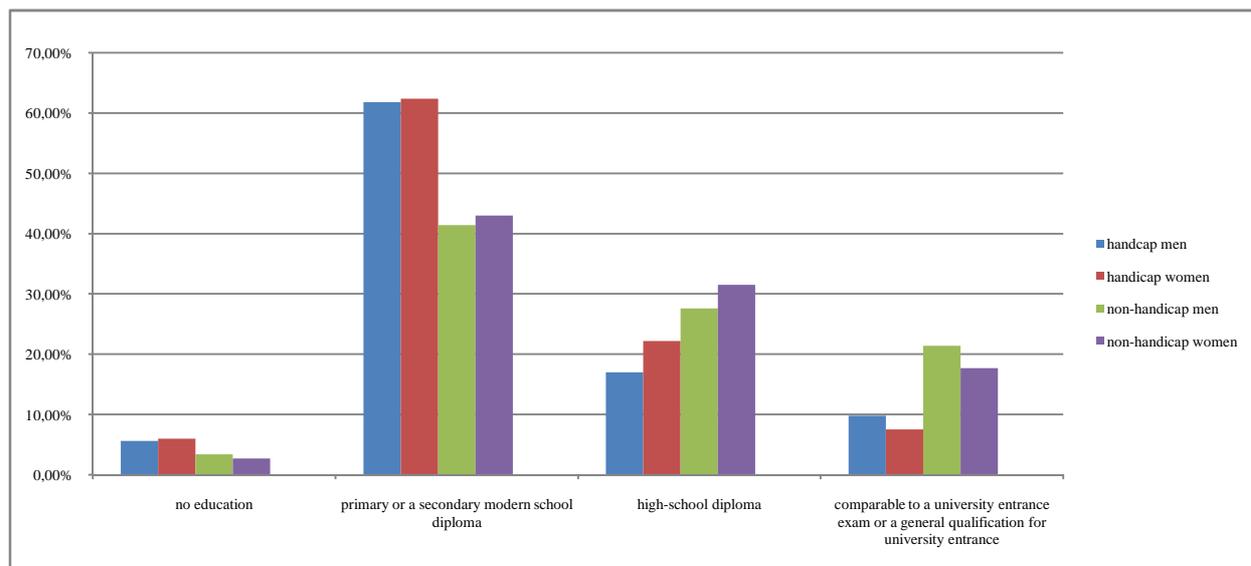
⁸ Destatis Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden (2012)

⁹ Gender-Datenreport (2005); p.553

have a primary or a secondary modern school diploma, 31.5% of women and 27.6% of men a high-school diploma and 17.7% of women and 21.4% of men have a comparable to a university entrance exam or a general qualification for university entrance.¹⁰

Figure 3, A comparison between the highest school education form handicap people and Non-handicap people in the year 2005¹¹

Source: Pfaff, H.



A disadvantage of handicapped people can be also found on the labor market. In 2005, 22.8% of women and 30.3% of men with a handicap gained employment. For contrast, 53.4% of non-handicap women and 70.8% of non-handicap men were employed. If you compare specific age groups, significant differences remain between handicapped and non-handicapped. So in the age group of the 25 to 45 years 65.2% of handicap women and 74.3% of handicap men are employed, however, there are in the non-handicap in the same age group, 79.0% of women and 94.8% of the men in employment.¹² Most of the handicapped people were employees (46%) or workers (40%), only a small amount of handicap people was self-employed (8%) or in the civil servants (6%).¹³

Through these employment rates, the number of the unemployment rate for handicap people was high, but overall this was 331,000 in Germany 62% of handicapped men had a 38%

¹⁰ H. Pfaff et al. (2007) ; p. 1273-1274

¹¹ H. Pfaff et al. (2007) ; p. 1273-1274

¹² H. Pfaff et al. (2007) ; p. 1270-1271

¹³ H. Pfaff et al. (2007) ; p. 1272

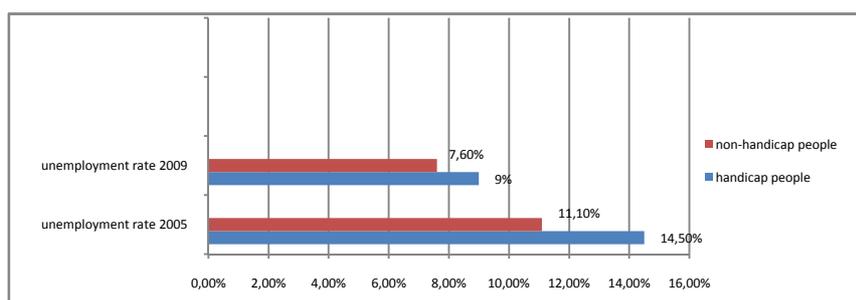
handicapped women. This put the unemployment rate in 2005 was 14.5% of the handicap and the without handicaps at 11.1%.¹⁴ Thus, the handicap people are disadvantaged in the labor market rather than non-handicap people, the rent or the pension was the main source of income (63%), only 19% of maintenance of the disabled has been funded by their own income.¹⁵

If we compare these figures with those of the Mikrozensus 2009, there are no or only minor improvements in the living conditions of handicap people in Germany. So the secondary school is usually still the boast of having the highest educational for handicap people (58.8%) and the number of employed handicap people has increased only slightly compared to 2005. In 2005, the total number of employed persons with handicaps was 26.8% and in 2009, it now stands at 27.2%.¹⁶

Although the number of unemployment rate of people with handicaps is 14.5% in 2005, fell significantly back (2009: 9.0%), but there is still a significant gap to the without handicap people in Germany (11.1% in 2005 and 2009 7.6%).¹⁷ Since 2009 companies are required to recruit severely handicapped people if they have more than 20 works. If they don't recruit severely handicapped people they have to pay a compensation. Unfortunately 2010, more companies payed a compensation (61%) then recruited severely handicapped people¹⁸. This shows that handicap people are excluded and discriminated against, however there exist laws against it.

Figure 4, A comparison between the unemployment rate of handicap people and non-handicap people in the years 2005 and 2009¹⁹

Source: Pfaff, H.



¹⁴Paff, H. (2007) ; p. 1271-1272

¹⁵ Pfaff, H.(2007) ; p. 1274-1275

¹⁶ Pfaff, H.(2012) ; p. 236-237

¹⁷Pfaff, H.. (2012) ; p. 236-237

¹⁸ Spiegel Online (2012)

¹⁹ Pfaff, H. (2012) ; p. 236-237

2. Causes and consequences of handicapped people exclusion

Our society is affected by status, social protection system, political position of power and personal identity, which defines itself mostly throughout occupation. Social exclusion is pre-determined, if the access to employment is denied. Unfortunately disabled people have to experience such exclusion many times.²⁰ Every day they are confronted with different problems such as:

- cultural discrimination (ideal of beauty/body standards in media)²¹
- institutional discrimination (public transportation or buildings are rarely wheelchair-accessible)²²
- interpersonal level (humiliating behavior by others or even physical violence)²³

However, what are causes for the exclusion of handicapped people in our society?

Persons with disabilities were religiously compared with sins in the past. But even in times of National Socialism in Germany (1945) the Regime drafted a bill for the treatment of so-called "Different-Collective" (Jewish people, homosexuals, disabled people etc.).²⁴

Today a lot of non-disabled persons still do not know how to behave with handicapped people; they often feel defenseless and just ignore or suppress the issue of disablement.

For that reason disabled people feel excluded and stay among themselves.

As already mentioned, our expectation of the "perfect body" is often formed by the media. One reason for "discrimination against disabled persons" is the societal reaction of abnormal bodily parts and mental disability. The "perfect body" stands also for wealth, fortune and success. Public and private buildings as well as public transportation are often not easy to enter for physically disabled people since the installation of appropriate accessibility devices are too costly.

Several researches state that the most significant reason for the exclusion of handicapped people is a lack of knowledge and personal contact to the affected persons. The majority of the respondents blamed the parents for the disability of their children; alcoholism, inbreeding and inheritance were often mentioned as reasons. The less the level of education of the interviewed person, the more the lack of information. Age is a significant fact as well,

²⁰ Nachtrab, T. (2007) ; p. 14

²¹ Caplazi, A., Naguib, T. (2004) ; p. 2

²² Liebscher D., Fritzsche, H. (2010); worksheet 13, p. 1

²³ Liebscher D., Fritzsche, H. (2010); worksheet 13, p. 1

²⁴ Püschel, A. (1998); p. 16

because with increasing age the prejudgment and distance to disabled people rises. However, personal contact to a concerned child or adult diminishes the prejudices.²⁵ Since disabled persons are "segregated" throughout their whole life in kindergartens, schools and workshops for mentally and physically handicapped children, contact between disabled and non-disabled people is rare.²⁶

Only about 12 percent of disabled children go to school together with non-disabled children in Germany.

One consequence of our society is, if there are handicap people exclusion remains that our society will be ignorance eventually for the problem of handicapped exclusion. If this happening should be existing problems will be just ignored and as a kind of "normal" is assumed. Consequences for Germany is, if it exists handicap people exclusion that Germany would not be an open and equitable land applies, even though the rights of all people are enshrined in the constitution. Thus Germany could get a bad reputation and as a country which the values are valid, but this values are not respected by the population. For the handicap people themselves, it has implications when there is handicapped affected that handicap people are not recognized as a full member of society, but always can be only exist as a marginal group which will always have handicaps in the society, be it at work, in the education system or in the ordinary life. Consequences for the European Union, when it propagates handicap people exclusion the Article 26 of the EU - basic rights will be not fulfill. And that by not respect Article 26 of the EU member states the values which represents the European Union are not respected and thus the cohesion is compromised, although these article is intended to integrate the disabled into the society of the Member States and to encourage. One consequence for the handicap people themselves is if it exists handicap people exclusion that such effects possibly still will be extended and there will be in the future for people with handicaps in many areas, additional impairments where there previously did not yet or just a few adverse effects exist. Social implications are, if there are handicap people exclusion that the society will never accept that there are people who not complying with the "society norm" and this will be always treat them unlike any other.

²⁵ Mühl, H. (2000) ; p. 28-29

²⁶ Hemm, M. (1998) ; p. 10

3. Government role in preventing handicap people exclusion

People with disabilities have the same human rights as all other citizens. All human beings are born free and equal in their dignity and their rights. All disabled people are entitled to integrate in a civil, political social, economical and cultural way. In Germany, more people are affected by disability, as most think. More than 10.43% (2005) 27 of the citizens in Germany are living with a disability.

They are demanding equal opportunities to all social resources, like education, new technologies, health and social services, sports and leisure activities. The way in which our society lives give disabled people the feeling, that they are not able to perceive their human rights fully and that they are socially excluded. A society that is excluding some of its members is a poor society. In light of this, appropriate measures must be taken by public authorities to allow the families to organize their support for the disabled person as inclusive as possible. With a National Action Plan the life's of about 9.6 million²⁸ disabled people in Germany are significantly influenced. To allow more people with disabilities to live "in the middle of the workplace" the Federal Government they started „initiative inclusion".

Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs Ursula von der Leyen says with the inclusion statements that not the people with disabilities have to adapt to the society, but the society to them. So we have to organize the daily life to adapt to the 9.6 million²⁹ people with disabilities. The everyday life of disabled people is also designed so that they internal feel good about their lifestyle all over. In kindergarten, at school, at work in the restaurant and everywhere life happens. More than 44 billion €³⁰ were issued 2009 in Germany by the state and social security alone for suspiration, participation and care.

In the National Action Plan in principle objectives and concrete measures to improve the situation of people with disabilities are enshrined. Not only the federal government and the politics of this task are affected, also organizations and institutions such as employers, trade unions, trade associations and the media are affected. Since variable nondisabled people are much less likely to work and young people with disabilities will get far too rare a chance of a regular training. So since September 2011 1000 severely disabled young people get intensively prepared for working life. Approximately 5,800 severely disabled people are now

²⁷ Pfaff, H. (2005) ; p. 1268

²⁸ BMAS (2011)

²⁹ BMAS (2011)

³⁰ BMAS (2011)

in job training. Added to this also in the next 5 years 1300 new training places for young people with disabilities will be created. In the next four years, another 4,000 new jobs will be created age-appropriate for the labour market. It will be applied in all categories everyday life improvement.³¹

An important area of activity is in the public transport sector. Since 01.06.2011 free rides throughout Germany in urban transport for several disabled people are possible. Cultural centres and restaurants are also important areas. The federal government is trying with many different actions and practices contrary to the improvement and well-being of people with disabilities. The equality in the workplace, the joint education of disabled and non-disabled children, and a stronger consideration of the needs of people with disabilities in the legislation and the yet stronger commitment of the charities are aspects to improve and well-being of people with disabilities.³² The aim of the Federal Government and the other organization is the inclusion Initiative the situation of people with disabilities improves when they would be better recognized as normal members of society. What is done on behalf of the disabled will have for everyone in the world of the future importance.³³

4. Institutions and their actions

Excluded, limited, and discriminated against! Just as in the past, handicap people still have a very challenging situation. In Germany alone live 7 million handicapped people.³⁴ They are limited in their lifestyle, and suffer not only in their personal life, but also in their professional life, and suffer with prejudices from non-disabled people. Reasons for these prejudices can be linked to a pattern of social misconceptions, due to stereotypes created by society. These perceptions are passed on as early as childhood.³⁵ In children films and fairy tales, evil characters are commonly depicted with physical deformities. Then in contrast, the good characters are then depicted as the ideal beauty. Whether it be the princess in fairy tales, or the famed diva in movie features. However, thankfully, there are social services, institutions, and organizations that help and support the handicap daily. To illustrate their activities, we selected different forms foundations as single-, multipurpose and self-organized organizations.

³¹ Rollingplanet (2012)

³² Widmann, P. (2006)

³³ BMAS (2011)

³⁴ Die Bundesregierung (2010)

³⁵ Ausmeier, C., Scherr, F., Seif, S., Pollak, P. (2011)

4.1. Aktion Mensch Foundation

One of the biggest private multipurpose organization dealing in social areas in Germany, is the organization «Aktion Mensch e.V.». Aktion Mensch is one of the resulting social organizations that were financed from lottery profits.³⁶ This financial co-op consists of 7 members, the ZDF, six different welfare organizations: Workers Welfare Organization, German Caritas, German Red Cross, Protestant Charity Organization and the Central Welfare Association of Jewish People in Germany. Aktion Mensch utilizes the already successful social lottery, to assist in the advancement, education and the implementation of the equal rights for all citizens within society.³⁷ The main goal and/or task of Aktion Mensch is to advance the actions and the establishment of the credited non-profit Institution for the assistance of disabled people. Also, to advance and fulfill education measures. The Association can therefore take measures and create establishments that are fully a credited non-profit institution in areas for the assistance of people with social difficulties, and also the youth and children.³⁸

The social lottery, in which Aktion Mensch takes part in has already assisted around 4.6 million people. In addition, Aktion Mensch also supports around 1000 projects monthly. Since their founding, 3 million Euros have been allocated to projects for the handicapped and self-assistance projects for groups such as the youth and children. Their turn-over varies from year to year, and also the middle application of the social support constantly changes. The reason for their efforts is for everyone to benefit. Their motto is "Das WIR gewinnt"³⁹ (working together means success for all).

Projects of Aktion Mensch

The Charitable integration organization of ICP offers people with disabilities job positions on the free job market, which gives them a chance to better integrate into society. After their vocational training is finished (done through ICP) the trainees receive the possibility for a job position, in which they can acquire work experience, which in turn increases their value in the job market. Within this enterprise, about half of the employees have a disability; however the

³⁶ Aktion Mensch e.V. (2012)

³⁷ Aktion Mensch e.V. (2012)

³⁸ Charter of Aktion Mensch e.V. (1999)

³⁹ Aktion Mensch e.V. (2012)

work result is of little importance.⁴⁰ Aktion Mensch supports the construction of the Integrations Company ICP with 160,700 Euros.⁴¹

A school for everyone! This is the initiative of the Elternverein (parents union). Children with disabilities normally visit the “school for special needs,” in which they receive full-day class lessons. This means, they get hardly any contact with “normal,” children. For this reason, the Elternverein is pushing for a middle school. This school would be for all children with or without disabilities.⁴² The 170,000 Euros has enabled Aktion Mensch den Elternverein to move forward with this project.⁴³

4.2. Katarina Witt Foundation

Katarina Witt Foundation, is about the mobility of our youth and children with disabilities that are being financed by donations. It’s a pure multipurpose Foundation that means they have no employees and they are not operating actively. This also means projects can only be undertaken with the help of project partners. For example, a charity. The purpose of this is for disaster assistance, to assist disabled children and accomplishments and the advancement for disabled peoples sports.⁴⁴

Project efforts for the Katarina Witt Foundation

This program has enabled the building of sport facilities suitable for the handicapped. In Jaivos Jiri in Zimbabwe, children with disabilities need a professional setting in which to practice sports such as wheelchair basketball, tennis, or even goal ball. This program has made the construction and the receiving of the equipment possible for this multi-functional gym. The gym has also enabled 68 children and youths to take part in various sports activities. Also the children of the neighboring elementary school also have the opportunity to make use of the facility.⁴⁵

Since 2011 this program has supported the project "Supply of disabled people with wheelchair in Sri Lanka" of Johanniter foreign assistance. With the assistance of the Katarina Witt Foundation, up to 25 children with extreme disabilities have received high quality and

⁴⁰ ICP Verwaltungs- und Service GmbH (2012)

⁴¹ Aktion Mensch e.V. (2012)

⁴² Mittendrin e.V. (2012)

⁴³ Aktion Mensch e.V. (2012)

⁴⁴ Katarina Witt Stiftung (2012)

⁴⁵ Katarina Witt Stiftung (2012)

robust wheel chairs. In light of this project, more than 200 additional children could receive these wheel chairs as well. The children, that receive assistance from this program are between the ages of 1 and 18, and come from very poor families. These wheel chairs increase the children's mobility enormously. Allowing the children to attend school or take part in society.⁴⁶

4.3. My Handicap

The founder Joachim Schoss lost use of his right side due to an automobile accident while abroad. This accident had life changing repercussions for him. After his rehabilitation, he decided to start a self-organized foundation. My handicap pursued the goal of improving the living situation of people with physical disabilities. My Handicap is purely an internet portal for information, knowledge, and experience regarding all areas of living with physical disabilities. It is a beginners guide for the recently disabled and those helping the recently disabled to learn to cope. It has information aspects ranging from medicinal and psychological questions, to technical help remedies, and even travel and partnerships problems.⁴⁷

Project of My Handicap

A successful project originated from My Handicap-App. The App focuses especially on the disabled with mobility restrictions that rely on information regarding accessibility when searching for handicap accessible areas. When searching for wheel chair accessible areas, this app has made it much easier to receive an immense amount of information for all of Germany and Switzerland, such as relevant addresses in categories like Leisure and Sport, Education and Job Training, and Health and Living Assistance.⁴⁸

The My Handicap-App has been awarded the National and International World Summit Award Mobile and has also received the Innovations Award-IT 2012 in the App category.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Katarina Witt Stiftung (2012)

⁴⁷ MyHandicap gGmbH (2012)

⁴⁸ MyHandicap gGmbH (2012)

⁴⁹ MyHandicap gGmbH (2012)

4.4. Program for Disabled People in Kassel

The Kasseler Disabled Foundation would like to facilitate a humane life style for the mentally challenged. In Werkhof at Park Schoenfeld a home for the mentally challenged has been established. Here the mentally challenged live and work in a modern housing complex. Every resident receives responsibilities that are within their range of ability but also maximizes the usefulness of their abilities. The program works under the saying "Self-autonomy through social integration". This program was established in 1998 by 7 parents with the goal that if you incorporate people with disabilities in such a long-term establishment, this would make a more humane lifestyle possible. The entireties of the Werkhof's buildings are wheel chair accessible, and in every building there are fully equipped service baths.⁵⁰

Project Founding

In 2011 the program built a greenhouse, to create the so called "green working environment" for caretakers, with the investment of 74,000 this program has created very valuable project but for the caretakers it was a great undertaking.⁵¹

The Foundation would like to purchase new property. This has been the largest undertaking for the project. This will allow more people to be taken care of such as retired peoples who need living assistance. Since the Foundation's goal is to create a long-term humane living environment. This has a very important meaning for the Association.⁵²

5. Actions organized by handicapped people

A project which is organized by handicapped people in Kassel is "Start your way to a self-determined life- learning inclusive living".⁵³ It is an online academy for disabled which is financially supported trough "Aktion Mensch" (see: 4.1).

The academy www.bifos-ok.de started with the UN-Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2009. It says among others that the participation in every social activity is a human right.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ Kasseler Behinderten Stiftung (2012)

⁵¹ Kasseler Behinderten Stiftung (2012)

⁵² Kasseler Behinderten Stiftung (2012)

⁵³ bifos e.V. (2012)

⁵⁴ Bundesministerium für Soziales und Arbeit (2011)

Bifos online academy is targeted to handicapped women, man and particularly teenagers who want to live their life "more inclusive". This might be for example the moving from their parents' house into an own apartment, an application in the general job market, application for funds or the willing to become a Peer and help other disabled people. The online academy offers help for concerned persons to make such decisions for their own life.⁵⁵

5.1. Structure of the online academy

The qualification is structured into two basic modules and several advanced modules and two attendance seminars at bifos in Kassel.

In the basic courses participants learn about live in society, their personal rights and how to fulfill them.

Some points of focus are:

- What means inclusive live
- What is self-determination
- When is someone detained or discriminated against
- How to write an application for funding and what to do when it gets denied⁵⁶

The advanced modules focus on live and living with disabilities, education and employment:

- In what kind of residential facility do I want to life? What do I have to do for it
- How to structure leisure time
- How to fulfill an idea of a family
- How do I apply for the first job market

In the attendance courses participants learn about self-management and deepen the previous modules:

- Planning the future
- How to present them self and their wishes
- Personal budgeting
- Counseling services⁵⁷

⁵⁵ bifos e.V. (2012)

⁵⁶ bifos e.V. (2012)

5.2. Characteristics of the Online-Academy

Since most of the courses can be taken at home via internet, participants can decide their own pace of studying, which is important to slow learners; also it makes it accessible for mobile restrained people. The course is available in two different versions; one is in everyday speech, the other in plain language for the mentally handicapped. Another characteristic of the academy is that all coaches are disabled themselves; they are experienced and worked as advisers for other handicapped people for many years.

After successful degree, students get a certificate which allows them to work as Peer Counselor and help other disabled persons.

5.3. Action against handicapped people exclusion in Germany- Initiative Inclusion

The central idea of the UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is Inclusion.⁵⁸ It means that people with and without disabilities live together in a self-determined way. One key issue of the German Federal Government is an “inclusive” working world⁵⁹. Since many disabled people cannot find work on the regular labor market, they are forced to live on social welfare, pensions, or have to work in workshops for handicapped people. The German Government, the Federal Employment Office, the Federal States and other institutions started the campaign Initiative Inclusion and will provide over 100 million Euro for the integration of severely disabled people in regular employment.⁶⁰ The money will be used for the information of severely disabled students and their labor chances. Furthermore the Government will support handicapped teenagers and elderly people with an apprenticeship. The project started in 2011 and will be completed in 2018.⁶¹

The next two years the Government will support about 10.000 disabled students with their occupational orientation annually. Within the next five years more than 1.300 trainee positions for severely disabled people will be created. In addition, the campaign will try to generate 4.000 jobs for unemployed and work-seekers who are over 50 years old⁶².

⁵⁷ Vieweg (2012); p.1

⁵⁸ Bundesministerium für Soziales und Arbeit (2011)

⁵⁹ BMAS (2012)

⁶⁰ Bundesministerium für Soziales und Arbeit (2011) ; p. 10

⁶¹ Bundesministerium für Soziales und Arbeit (2011) ; p. 10

⁶² Bundesministerium für Soziales und Arbeit (2011) ; p. 11-12

Furthermore the Government will provide five million Euros for implementation concepts for the chamber of industry and commerce. The chamber, which is the contact for small and mid-size businesses, will qualify their personnel in consulting. Throughout this, new positions in training and employment in the regular job market for disabled people will be created.⁶³

The action Initiative Inclusion is very important for handicapped persons who still have the physical ability to work for their living expenses, since regular employment is crucial for inclusion into society.⁶⁴

6. Logo and Website of bifos

Image 1: Team and Management of bifos



Source: bifos

"We are citizens of second class in every country and our task is everywhere the same. We need to take our lives in our own hands. We need to take control over our organization. We ourselves need to determine the effort, which we need for equal opportunities. We have to team up and support each other."

Dr. Adolf Ratzka⁶⁵

⁶³ Bundesministerium für Soziales und Arbeit (2011) p.11-ff.

⁶⁴ Heitbrink, A. (2012)

Figure 5. Logo of bifos



Bildungs- und Forschungsinstitut zum selbstbestimmten Leben Behinderter

Address: Kölnische Straße 99, 34119 Kassel Fon: 0561/7288540

<http://www.bifos.org>

6.1. Historical background and organizational structure of bifos

Bifos e.V. is an association founded in 1992 in Kassel. It stands short for „Bildungs- und Forschungsinstitut zum selbstbestimmten Leben Behinderter“and can be translated to „Learning and research institute of independent living for disabled people.”

Bifos is member of the umbrella organization „Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben Behinderter in Deutschland -ISL- e.V. “, which is the German pendant to DPI „Disabled People’s International.”⁶⁶

In the 1960s a social movement started in North America- an international civil rights movement of disabled people. Humans who had to live in residential homes because of their handicap, started to get a new sense of life thanks to the movement. They could now enlarge their quality of life, for instance to live in an own apartment, study at an university or peruse a profession.⁶⁷

DPI’s Goals are:

- Promote the human rights of disabled persons;
- Promote economic and social integration of disabled persons;
- Develop and support organizations of disabled persons⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Dr. Adolf Ratzka (2012)

⁶⁶ bifos e.V. (2012)

⁶⁷ bifos e.V. (2012)

⁶⁸ DPI (2010)

Figure 6. Organizational structure of bifos



Source: bifos

Since bifos is an association, corporate bodies can become member of the club. But they have to accept that the management has to consist only of handicapped as well as only they have the right to vote. Individuals can only enter the association if they are disabled themselves and agree to the constitution of bifos. Everyone can become sustaining member, if he wants to support the club financially.⁶⁹

As it is costly to hold such a large association, bifos gets subsidies from the ISL. Furthermore they mostly finance themselves through an ambulant nursing service⁷⁰ (Ambulalanter Hilfsdienst für Behinderte AHD). The service exists since the foundation of Support Autonomy of Handicapped (Förderung der Autonomie Behinderter fab e.V.)⁷¹ and is managed exclusively through a disabled person.⁷²

6.2. bifos' activities against the exclusion of handicapped people

In the past years bifos arranged numerous seminars, conferences, congresses and advanced trainings to several focal topics. The learning opportunities stand open for every handicapped person, regardless of their disability.⁷³ The services of bifos are specially fitted to the requirements of challenged people to enable them to participate.

Venues are wheelchair accessible, seminar materials are also written in Braille, large print for visually impaired and Easy Language (short sentences, no foreign- technical terms,

⁶⁹ ISL (2011)

⁷⁰ Heitbrink, A. (2012)

⁷¹ fab e.V. (2011)

⁷² Heitbrink, A. (2012)

⁷³ bifos e.V. (2012)

complicated words are explained, lot of pictures for easy understanding)⁷⁴ for the mentally disabled. Furthermore, there is audio equipment available for the hearing impaired and sign language interpreter for deaf people.⁷⁵

Past projects of bifos are:

- Further education to Peer Counselor
- Journals of independent living for disabled people
- Interactive website for barrier-free tourism
- Interactive website "Disability studies" - Research about disability
- National summer university in Bremen "Disability Studies-new thinking of disability"⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Leichte Sprache (2012)

⁷⁵ Heitbrink, A. (2012)

⁷⁶ bifos e.V. (2012)

7. Conclusion

Everyone has the right to develop all his abilities within the community in such a way that it is also possible for his future, to socially integrate, and not to live on the margins of society. There should already be an open area of integration in childhood. It is an aim of the integration work that all children can grow up together. They should not be forced to leave their everyday habitant because of their disability. Normality means then that disabled and non-disabled children play learn and live together.⁷⁷ The gained experiences bring a change in the assessment of disability and as a result of one's own self-understanding and the strengths and weaknesses of children and adults with themselves. The attention is woken up to each other by the work in the integration group, the empathy is deepened, and acceptance and tolerance is built up. A tolerant coexistence of non-disabled and disabled people in a society is enrichment for everybody. Above all, the integration at school has a great importance. Disabled children should teach all skills auto didactically themselves by direct imitation which they crib of the non-disabled persons. I.e. integrating of people with impediments in the school lessons of non-disabled persons is necessary. It would be for great advantage to integrate disadvantaged people to active learning contents and skills by specific training and cooperation.

Furthermore, one should always try to guarantee more and more the access for the physically and mentally disadvantaged people everywhere, so that they not feel themselves uncomfortable, restricted, isolated and abandoned.

New buildings or the similar should be made furthermore for wheel chair. It is very important that the "normal people" leave their prejudices and be more open, to act without restraint against the disabled. We should not help the people out of pity, but one should show to the opposite that he is equally like us.

Furthermore it is very important to integrate these people into social life through festivals, organizations, projects, etc.. Also in the working life the integration should continue. You should make available more variety of options. Also here, one should promote in certain masses the cooperation of disabled and non-disabled people. Aids are very important support of the physically and mentally disadvantaged. They help people in their independence and mobility. For a huge number of impediments as a result of illness, accident or old age supporting tools are available at the market. Besides, it can concern assistant or wheel chairs

⁷⁷ Textor, M. (2001)

but also prosthesis or hearing aids, too. The mobile communication provides many people with disabilities new opportunities and in the field of communication aids there are also developed new tools, such as for example linguistic or visual controls for computer. Furthermore TV broadcastings could be switchable with subtitles or sign language. There are countless opportunities to realize a unification of humanity. It is important that one shows a lot of patience and determination. The role of the state is very significant because for the implementation of many ideas the funds to finance are missed. The government should identify not only material assistance, but also intangible. They could reduce a little bit the prejudices of the humanity with the help of the media and by distributing enlightening brochures.

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Figures

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Figure 2: Causes of handicaps in Germany, 2005

Figure 3: A comparison between the highest school education from handicapped, 2005

Figure 4: A comparison between the unemployment rates of handicap people, 2005/2009

Figure 5: Logo of bifos e.V.; www.bifos.org

Figure 6: Organizational structure of bifos; referring to www.bifos.org

Images

Image 1: Team and Management of bifos; <http://www.fab-kassel.de/>