**Questionnaire on the right of persons with disabilities to participation in decision-making**

**Questions for civil society (English):**

1. **Please provide information on the legislative and policy framework in place in your country related to the status, establishment, resourcing, and functioning of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and local levels;**

The ESH is active in the whole German speaking region, in different countries.

The States give us no resources, because they are focussed at "professional care-givers". The ESH has the right to act freely and self-depended in these countries.

Sometimes we have the problem, that the ESH formally is not a usual national organisation just active in a single country.

1. **Please provide information on existing legislation and policies aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including children with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision-making processes that directly or indirectly concern them;**

The ESH don’t know something about such policies and we see that we are not involved in nearly every way. But often the rich Parent-DROs are heard for the Autistics.

It is remarkable, that there is nearly at no time made a participation is made possible for Autistics like in the ESH, that communicate with text from at home, because of their sensitiveness, that can and do cause physical hurt like hearing much too loud sounds for everyone (we know, that there are Autistics, that get together in self-help groups at psychical meetings, they are only one half of the autistic minority worldwide and these two groups have very different experiences if you want so like Usher Type 1 and 2 (first blind and secondly deaf or first deaf and secondly blind), so that every half have to speak itself, when we want to reach "noting about us without us"). This is a problem which causes massive exclusion in every instance from political hearings over DRO-Conferences to the UN-Mechanisms. It is a very big difference if it is possible to talk with other individuals and find contacts or just send texts into black boxes that don’t answer. This is a really frustrating situation which weakens the ESH largely, because many Autistics don’t have the nerves to cope such experience together with the concrete existing problems of individual Autistics including deaths because of reception of rights by state organs (see our CRPD-Alternative report).

This accessibility problem is central for the development of our DPOs, but even the UN don’t point it out clearly that there is such a broad accessibility problem for many Autistics worldwide.

1. **Please provide information on any consultative body or mechanism established to consult and engage with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including information about their composition, criteria for membership (nomination, appointment, election, etc.) and functioning;**

We don’t know such ways and we know from the German wing of WNUSP, that this is a big problem for them without accessibility problems like ours. Often it seems so, that leaders of committees make what they want and that there is not policy witch forces them to include DROs and "suffer" their positions.

1. **Please provide information on the efforts undertaken at national, regional and/or local levels to strengthen the capacity of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to facilitate their participation in legislative, policy and other decision-making processes;**

We don’t know such efforts in a German speaking country.

1. **Please explain whether and how persons with disabilities participate in monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 33, para. 3), and in the nomination of experts to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 34, para. 3);**

The German BRK-Allianz as I know was dominated by nondisabled persons and was not founded really democratic. It was dominated by Netzwerk Artikel 3, which have a head which was a member of a local German government at this time. Accessibility for members of the ESH was finally rejected (the long version is more complicate).

The ESH don’t know only-real-DPO-networks in our region which could to set up a common alternative report of several disabled minorities. Bias seems to be a big problem in the contact between DPOs of different disabled minorities too, so that for example individual wheelchair users treat Autistics like third class people, which should not be heard so much.

Because of this the ESH made its own report to the CRPD-Committee, which seems to have not made a relevant impact there, maybe because the Committee don’t like so see this problems above.

1. **Please identify the main challenges faced by the diversity of persons with disabilities in participating in mainstream and disability-specific decision-making processes at the national, regional and local levels, including challenges faced by persons who experience multiple discrimination (e.g., on the basis of disability, age, gender, ethnic origin, geographical location).**

In our case again massive and broad lack of accessibility.

1. **Please provide information on the existence of organizations of persons with disabilities in your country, including organizations of children and women with disabilities, as well as their composition and internal decision-making processes and procedures;**

A number of disabled minorities build mostly poor and weak DPOs in our region, but they mostly dont work together in a sufficient way.

1. **Please identify the main challenges faced by the diversity of persons with disabilities as members of mainstream or disability-specific non-governmental organizations, and in participating in the activities of such organizations, including challenges faced by persons who experience multiple discrimination**.

Being included in decision making processes of the states as a right. Better legal procedures for DPOs, maybe ways to go to courts without spending money for this and a kind of free legal insurance financed by the state for DPOs valid up to the EGMR an UN-Committees including full real costs for a lawyer of own choice.

Feel free to ask more.

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