



Three years of ICF implementation in Kosovo under the national disability action plan 2010-2012

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Abstract We here present the results of the activities carried out in order to implement the use, recommended by the Kosovar disability action plan, of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), during the last three years.

Introduction

Since 2011, Italian WHO-FIC CC has carried out a project to support the implementation of the Disability action plan of Kosovo, in strict cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Italian Cooperation for Development. The project is funded by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, under the regional multiannual plan for international health policies. We here present the results of the activities carried out in order to implement the use, recommended by the Kosovar disability action plan, of the ICF.

Figure 1 – Kosovo is a newborn country



Methods & Materials

The activities were carried out at municipal and central level to set up a work plan to implement a national recommendation for evaluating and overcoming disability according to a biopsychosocial model. At municipal level (Gjilan) three types of activities were carried out: (i) methodological assistance to an "ICF working group" to design a door-to-door survey on 300 families with children with disabilities and to analyse the collected data (2012); (ii) multiple training sessions to use ICF methodology for the evaluation of children with disabilities (2011-2013); and (iii) an 8-day training course for 30 nurses to develop communication and counselling skills useful to manage patients with disability experiences (2012-2013). At central level, three types of activities were carried out: (i) the realization of an international Autumn school on ICF in Udine (Italy) for an intersectorial Kosovar delegation (2011); (ii) the provision of technical assistance to the start-up of an interministerial working group for the adoption of ICF in Kosovo (2012-2013);

Figure 2 –His Excellence Italian Ambassador in Kosovo Michael L. Giffoni with the Italian CC expert FG - 2011



and (iii) the provision of technical assistance to the start-up of a Kosovar association for the implementation of ICF in Kosovo (2012-2013).

Results

Data collected at municipal level were analysed and reported; an interministerial working group was established by the Kosovar Office of Good Governance, comprising the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, a WHO representative, a UNICEF representative, and the representative of the Gjilan ICF working group. The Italian WHO-FIC CC support was requested to the Italian Ambassador. A professional association was formed in 2013, named OKINF (where KNF in the acronym is the Albanian translation of 'ICF'). A 2013 work plan was submitted to support the two new social bodies to be run by the Italian WHO-FIC CC.

Figure 3 – The Gjilan Major and counselor for health with the Italian CC experts LF & FM and the Italian Development Cooperation expert- - 2012



Figure 4 – The Gjilan ICF working group with the Italian CC expert LF and the Italian development cooperation expert- 2012



Figure 5 – The Gjilan nurses working group with the Italian CC expert FM - 2013



Conclusions

Kosovo is a country in transition, in the process of refining and redefining its institutions; between 2008 and 2013 a key element has been the acceleration in the decentralization process at Municipality level. Education and accessibility have been considered as the most dynamic areas of inclusion and the optimal entry point to challenge a silted situation. The ICF model is considered a consistent framework to design new inclusive policies and programmes.

Figure 6 – The growing Europe



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