



Using the ICF framework and UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to define the Italian Disability Action plan

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Abstract The Italian National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities represents a complex instrument created to analyze, improve and enhance information about disability. The preparation of the Italian Disability Action Plan is one of the most noteworthy tasks of the Observatory. The Plan reports indication of priorities for normative and policy-oriented revision of legislative and governmental action and provides the pathway for Italian Government for next two years of policy development on disability.

Introduction

On March 2007, Italy signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and ratified it by Law 18/2009. By acceding to the Convention, Italy has committed itself not only to higher standards of non-discrimination with respect to persons with disabilities and to improving accessibility and social inclusion, but also to reforming the structure of its own policy making process. The CRPD contains specific provisions that respond to the need to translate the rights of people with disability into concrete domestic law, policies and good practices.

In line with the CRPD, Italy through its Ministry of Labour and Social Policies opted for setting up a new structure, the National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities (*Osservatorio nazionale sulla condizione delle persone con disabilità*).

Methods & Materials

The Italian National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities represents a complex instrument created to analyze, improve and enhance information about disability in Italy; at the same time, the Observatory aims at improving the level of effectiveness and adequacy of relevant policies. The Observatory acts as a consulting, technical and scientific body for the elaboration of National policies in the field of disability, with particular regard to: the promotion of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the promotion of collection of statistical data and the production of studies and research on this issue; the preparation of the report on the state of the art of the implementation of disability-related policies; the preparation of a two-year national action plan for the promotion of rights and the integration of persons with disabilities, in order to enact National and International legislation.

References

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Results

MAIN STEPS OF WORK AND RESULTS

16 December 2010: First National Observatory meeting

On May 2011, Methodological Notes on the organization of the work of this body were released

The National Observatory elaborated a procedural document to establish its own working scheme.

Six working groups were constituted on these issues:

1. Right to life, health and care
2. Disability eligibility
3. Independent living and empowerment of the people with disability
4. School inclusion
5. Work for people with disability and social security
6. Accessibility and universal design

The Methodological Notes was the first tangible act of the National Observatory itself, and shows a strong commitment to the preparation of the report to be submitted to the CRPD Committee, to the biannual disability action plan setting forth policy priorities as well as to the revision of statistical indices to monitor the implementation of the Convention more effectively. Through these Notes, six working groups were constituted, each of them 'chaired' by a DPO member. Each group undertook a separate line of analysis with a somewhat different purpose, and the results of each have been gathered to contribute to the elaboration of the Italian State report to be submitted to the CRPD Committee at UN.

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Italian Disability Action Plan

The Italian Disability Action Plan is the result of an intense work inspired by the six working groups that previously prepared the report for UN. Data and information, normative and impact-based evaluations of policies are constantly updated with the elaboration carried out under the direct or indirect supervision of the Ministries involved and this work is based on the ICF framework and on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities articles.

On 13 February 2013 the Italian Disability Action Plan has been approved by the National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities and presented to the Italian Parliament. The Plan reports indication of priorities for normative and policy-oriented revision of legislative and governmental action and provides the pathway for Italian Government for next two years of policy development on disability.

Conclusions

The preparation of a national biannual action plan is certainly a noteworthy task for a country. The plan has been discussed and prepared by the National Observatory and shared with hundreds of relevant stakeholders in all areas of disability. Upon the proposal of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and after approval by the Council of Ministers it has been adopted by Decree of the Presidency of the Republic. **The general structure of the National Action Plan is organized as a synthesis of normative and policy-related problems and is matched to ICF biopsychosocial model, as well as to the articles of the UN CRPD, so that discrepancies between real situation for people with disability and target are clear and this awareness requires Governmental bodies to take a position to find solutions. The Italian methodology could be used by other countries and the experience shared with other governments.**

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