

Choice and Control for Persons with Disabilities during COVID-19

Wednesday 24th March 2021

14h – 15:30h CET, via Zoom

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic presented major challenges in service provision. Many services needed to adapt to continue supporting those who need it most and millions of persons with disabilities, together with millions of professionals who provide care and support have been affected.

During the pandemic, support services faced challenges in finding the right balance between health and safety vs choice and control, which often resulted in focusing primarily on the safety of the service user, rather than in helping them enjoy their human rights. EASPD's [2nd COVID-19 snapshot](#) revealed situations where the user of services was no longer or was less in control over how the services were provided, in comparison to before the crisis.

However, even before the pandemic, many persons mainly with intellectual disabilities were restricted in their legal capacity. Choice and control of persons with disabilities, is key to unlock access to human rights, which are currently denied due to the lack of recognition of their legal capacity; access to appropriate structures and support services that will meet their needs and respect their rights.

Service providers for Persons with Disabilities are playing an active role in empowering persons with support needs to make decisions and control their lives. And, for this reason, the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities is organising an online webinar that will be the opportunity for participants to learn more about

- What is the state of play of Legal Capacity for Persons with Disabilities in Europe?
- How can support services facilitate choice and control of persons with disabilities?
- What are the challenges faced by the social services?
- What are the next steps?

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Programme:

14h00	<p>Technical Information by Konstantina Leventi, Policy & Project Officer, EASPD</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks by Luk Zelderloo, Secretary General, EASPD</p>
14h10	<p>Cross-European State of Play on Legal Capacity</p> <p>moderated by Konstantina Leventi, Policy & Project Officer, EASPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Teresa Guimarães, HUMANITAS - Federação Portuguesa para a Deficiência Mental, Portugal • Mr. Simon Duffy, Centre for Welfare Reform, UK <p>Q&A with Participants</p>
14h35	<p>Supported decision making in practice. Perspectives from service providers, persons with disabilities, and families.</p> <p>moderated by Konstantina Leventi, Policy & Project Officer, EASPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sophia Karagouni, VCT Margarita, Greece • Ms. Kirsi Konola, Service Foundation for People with an Intellectual Disability (KVPS), Finland • Mr. Pat Clarke, European Disability Forum • Mr. Pep Solé, Support Girona, Catalonia-Spain <p>Q&A with Participants</p>
15h25	<p>Concluding Remarks by James Crowe, President, EASPD</p>