

# ECCL Seminar

## Community living of Persons with disabilities

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# EASPD

The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) promotes the equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high quality service systems in Europe. EASPD represents close to 8000 service provider organisations across disability and across Europe.

Our objectives are high quality services as well as affordable, available, accessible and adaptable services for all.

We hope to achieve this through our 3 main pillars:

1. **Service provision to members (*Information*):** networking/offer exchange possibilities to members at European, national/regional and local level;
2. **Lobbying (*Impact*):** offering NGO/GO service providers a voice in Europe;
3. **Research and Development (*Innovation*):** as basis for innovation and improvement of service provision.

Involvement in this field is based on our participation in projects such as 'Tolerance or Acceptance', 'Families In', 'Included in Society', Framework towards Community Based Settings and Person Centred Services, 'Cost Comparison', De-institutionalisation project in Batak and Gorno (Bulgaria) and Timisoara (Romania).



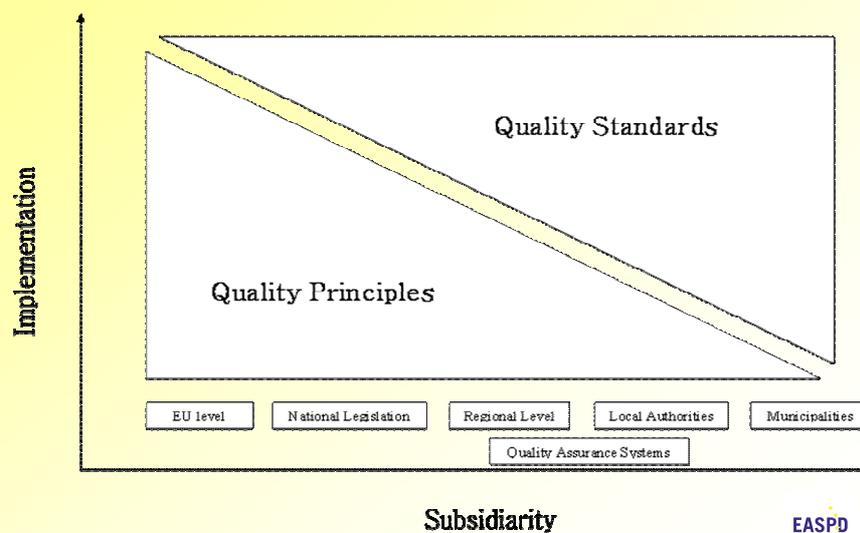
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# Quality... not a place but a journey

## Key principles:

- Outcomes not procedures
- Aiming at full citizenship and inclusion
- Needs driven
- Person focused, community based
- Support should be Available, Affordable, Accessible, Adaptable
- In close cooperation with mainstream actors
- Stakeholder approach

## Quality... standards versus principles



## Quality... standards versus principles II

### **Principles recognise**

- Subsidiarity
- Diversity
- Responsibility
- The process

Principles aim at real impact on real people.

### **Barriers for high quality community based settings and de-institutionalisation**

- The wording
- The frog phenomenon
- Social network
- Service spectrum
- Stakeholder cooperation
- Supply line

## The wording



There is an ongoing debate on the wording when talking about de-institutionalisation.

The wording is very difficult to operationalise

Proposal: Community Based Settings and Person Centred Services

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## The frog phenomenon

### So needed is:

- Focus on needs and needs assessment
- Developing and showing alternatives (availability)
- Explaining the importance of the change in paradigm
- Training change management
- Training new skills for first line staff
- Identify bottlenecks in legislation and underlying frameworks
- Alternative employment opportunities for staff



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## Social network



### So needed is:

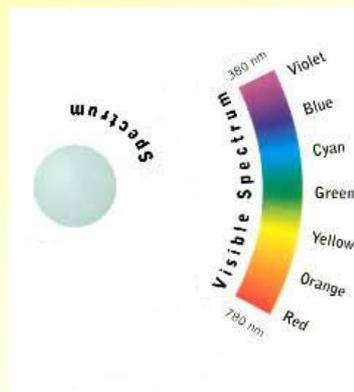
- Socio-economic support mechanism for poor families
- Communication support
- Recognition of different roles, parents/brothers, sisters
- Keep families together ...

## Service spectrum

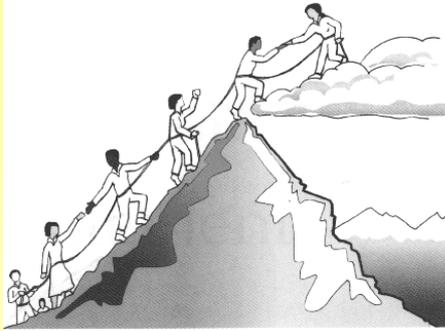
**The end of total “institutes” means more flexible solutions**

### So needed is:

- Available information services
- Aware and trained staff in maternity hospitals
- Early intervention and ambulant services
- Personal assistants in day care and schools
- Respite care services and temporary care
- Family support combined with support for persons with disabilities
- Focus on transition in life stages
- Available support in mainstream education and health care



## Stakeholder cooperation



### Key problems:

- Mono-dimensional approach
- HR activists: abuse
- Authorities: costs
- Persons with disabilities: options
- Parents: safety
- Professionals: employment
- Providers: sustainability

### So needed is:

- Invest in stakeholder cooperation
- Recognition of different roles
- Commitment of all partners
- SLA, cooperation agreements
- Develop partnerships

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## Cut the supply line



### So needed is:

- Availability of early intervention, ambulant and respite care services
- Flexible time frames for services (pre-school programs)
- Identify the number of persons living in the institutes
- Stop investment in the buildings
- Agreed plans for breakdown
- Legal 'stop'

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## Conclusions

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail!

### So needed is:

- Feasible Action plans
- Overlap of systems
- Clearly allocated budget
- Monitoring
- Investment in training

