Agora+d

Promoting Social Innovation

BREAKING DOWN GRANT MAKING SILOS
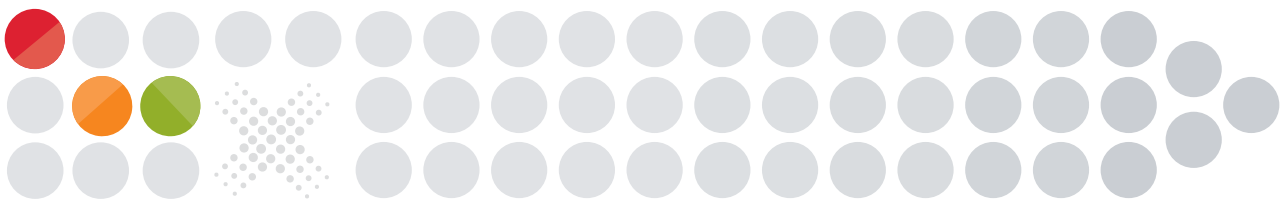
Disability as a cross-programme initiative

csr+d

european network for corporate
social responsibility & disability

European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

Fundación ONCE

efc
EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION
CENTRE

Essl foundation

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FOREWORD

The European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (**csr+d**) led by Fundación ONCE and co-funded by the European Social Fund, is a transnational and multi-stakeholder initiative, recognized as part of the key European CSR initiative Enterprise 2020, which brings together companies, public authorities, social economy organisations and other entities working on CSR to promote the inclusion of the disability dimension in CSR policies and strategies, both in the public and private sectors.

The CSR+D European Network is aligned with major policy milestones in the field of Disability as well as CSR such as the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, the EU Strategy 2011-2014 for CSR; and the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.

As leader of the CSR+D European Network, **Fundación ONCE** works together with **Telefónica** (Spain), **L'Oréal** (France) and the **Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies** (Italy) as the Network founding partners in the completion of different objectives such as policy influence, networking, dissemination of results and the promotion of social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

Within this framework, the CSR+D European Network has now developed a new platform called **Agora+d**, with the aim of sharing knowledge on Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship by collecting good practices including the disability approaches among top performer organisations from both the public and private sectors.

The name *Agora* recalls ancient Greek times, where the Agora was the main core spot in ancient Greek city-states that served as a meeting ground for various activities of the citizens. The Agora has always been considered as the main public space used for assemblies and markets and the most important place where every religious, political, judicial, social, and commercial activity was taking place. Based on this ancient Greek idea, the Agora+D platform provides a free and open space where stakeholders from civil society, government, corporations and social entrepreneurs with common interests can be brought together to meet and exchange knowledge to contribute towards the development of good practices in the field of CSR, Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship.

In the context of Agora+D, the CSR+D European Network has recently established a partnership with the European Consortium of Foundation on Human Rights and Disabilities[1] which is currently led by relevant members of the European Foundation Centre – EFC (including **Fundación ONCE**, **Sabanci Foundation**,

Essl Foundation, *Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca*). The EFC Consortium is also steering the work done by the EFC Disability Thematic Network, which is focusing on specific activities addressed to foundations and corporate funders.

One of the first concrete outputs of this fruitful collaboration is this publication which compiles some of the greatest examples from the philanthropic sector that explore the intersections between disability and other funding priorities such as employment, youth, gender, research, environment, accessibility, culture, cooperation and development and health. All the selected practices have as a common goal the mission of taking the issue of disability in a cross-cutting approach as a means to boost Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship.

As disability can be taken as an example of mainstreaming, philanthropy in general can also be considered as a most cross-disciplinary practice which multiplies its impact in the society through the collaboration with the corporate sector, policy makers, local authorities, etc. This is the reason why the sector should embrace a mainstream approach to implement affirmative policies that, in the specific case of disability, are actively fostering the rights of persons with disabilities.

Tackling disability as a cross-cutting issue is fundamental to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities and at the same time to produce high impact and systemic change at all levels: local, regional and national. Meanwhile, the current economic crisis is calling for effective partnerships from the foundations' sector to look for creative and alternative paths to address social issues such as Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship as a key opportunity for people with disabilities.

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[1] The European Foundation Centre's (EFC) European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability (hereafter referred to as the Consortium) was launched in April 2009 to ensure a distinctive contribution from the foundation sector in promoting the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Consortium serves as a hub for knowledge exchange among EFC members working on disability issues (http://bit.ly/1zIE7FB).

Miguel Ángel Cabra de Luna, Ph.D
Director for Social Relations, International Affairs and Strategic Planning of Fundación ONCE.
Chair of the European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability.

FRAMING THE ISSUE
A Contextual Introduction

In Europe there are 80 million European citizens with disabilities who represent 16% of the population. Taking into consideration their potential to provide society, and in particular the labour economy, new opportunities for growth and development, this population group should be considered as a major source of talent and consumption. They constitute, together with their families, a big consumer sector that is generating new business opportunities associated with the social challenges affecting an ageing Europe in need to reinforce both employment and social inclusion above all.

The European Commission approved its renewed EU Strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility recognising for the first time disability as a relevant subject in CSR agendas. Therefore the context could not be more favourable to promote labour and social inclusion of people with disabilities on the basis of previous sector policies and instruments such as the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and more widely the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Foundations should recognise this need and do their best to include the disability dimension in their grant making programmes as a cross-cutting issue together with other priorities in order to amplify their social impact.

Foundations could therefore act as a connection point of many different organisations whose aims are to improve the situation of persons with disabilities: governments, NGOs, social entrepreneurs, companies from the private sector, academics, and international organisations related to the European Union, the United Nations and many others.

Despite most foundation programs and initiatives being developed within established frameworks that hardly connect with each other, foundations remain in a unique position to act as catalysts, a network or leverage force for existing projects.

In fact, foundations are by definition neither limited by profit orientation as companies are, nor by rigid frameworks and budgets such as governments and government agencies. They have the advantage to have their own funding and their independent decision-making that puts those entities in a privileged position. For this reason, foundations can be considered efficient stakeholders, especially when it comes to supporting innovations that create disruptive change to some inefficient systems currently in place.

Within this competitive advantage, foundations are willing and able to support new and better solutions in order to replace those inefficiencies in the systems. In most cases however, the work of foundations is almost invisible outside of the closed community of organisations and people that work directly within the programs. Most foundations hardly communicate actively to the general public as a result of lacking visibility. Therefore, this booklet embodies an effort to improve the communication within the sector to reduce that deficit.

The title of the publication **Breaking down grant making silos: disability as a cross-programme initiative**, reflects those previous perspectives and speaks for itself: increasingly, foundations talk about ways of breaking down silos in their grant making approaches in order to step away from the single-issue focus to improve effectiveness and to achieve long lasting solutions to deep rooted problems. In this framework, the effort of many foundations that are taking action to breaking down those silos by developing joint grants across different priority areas is remarkable. This publication's main aim is to communicate these greatest efforts to provide a source of reflection and inspiration for foundations. Since we are working in a systemic framework, it would be ineffective to address disability without acknowledging its relationships with gender equality, education, employment, ageing, research, cooperation and development.

Seen as a primary human right issue, disability can be taken as an exemplar starting point where the strategic philanthropy model can be applied to allow foundations to evolve from a portfolio-isolated approach to a cross-cutting model.

Corporate Social Responsibility can be considered itself a process for promoting more active cross-cutting collaboration contributing to create social equality and sustainable change. Considering disability as a cross-cutting issue in specific foundation programmes means for example understanding employment as a key factor for the inclusion of persons with disabilities; focusing on ageing and disability to address issues such as dementia, highlighting youth and disability in areas such as access to education; considering the dimension of tourism and accessibility both as an economic opportunity and a human right for any person with a disability to enjoy their spare time.

How to use this guide

In the following pages you will find practical examples on how different foundations have been considering disability as a cross-cutting issue mainstreamed into their work.

The goal of this booklet is to demonstrate through a solution-based approach, the broadness of foundational programs in the field of disability that also have a clear focus on social innovation.

The best practices showcased here show how foundations consider disability a cross-cutting and inclusive issue, integrating it into programs that reach out not only persons with disabilities but connect them with very different fields of civil society – another "added value" that foundations create.

This publication is a practical tool that can serve as an inspiration for other foundations to act taking into consideration the cross-cutting approach.

From the webinar **BREAKING DOWN GRANTMAKING SILOS: MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY AND PROMOTING SOCIAL INNOVATION**
26 November 2014

"Over the past few years we have watched the disability rights movement gather pace and strength and recent developments have been much more strategic than in the past as the movement has grown far beyond service provision and looked at ways of changing the nature of the environment for people with disabilities.

Even so, many foundations, many founders and we as ordinary people have not yet made the mental leap of mainstream people with disabilities, instead thinking of them as a special category. We had a tendency to believe that work on this topic is the preserve of those that specialise in this field rather than the concern of all of us.

How far have we moved towards breaking down those barriers and mainstreaming regard for the concerns of people with disabilities? So environmental funders, human rights funders, cultural and art funders, funders of gender equality, don't forget people with disabilties, and bring them instead into the front and centre of their grant making."

Jo Andrews
Director of Ariadne - European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights

Methodology used

The European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (**csr+d**), led by Fundación ONCE, has recently established a partnership with the European Foundation Centre (EFC) Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability.

The CSR+D European Network focuses on raising awareness and promoting the integration of disability into CSR policy and business agendas. With a new focus on Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, and through the Agora+D platform, the CSR+D European Network now aims to generate and share knowledge and experiences evolving from the inclusion of disability in organizational strategies. It aims to do so by bringing together foundations, companies, social entrepreneurs, public administrations and other organisations under a multi-stakeholder and transnational platform.
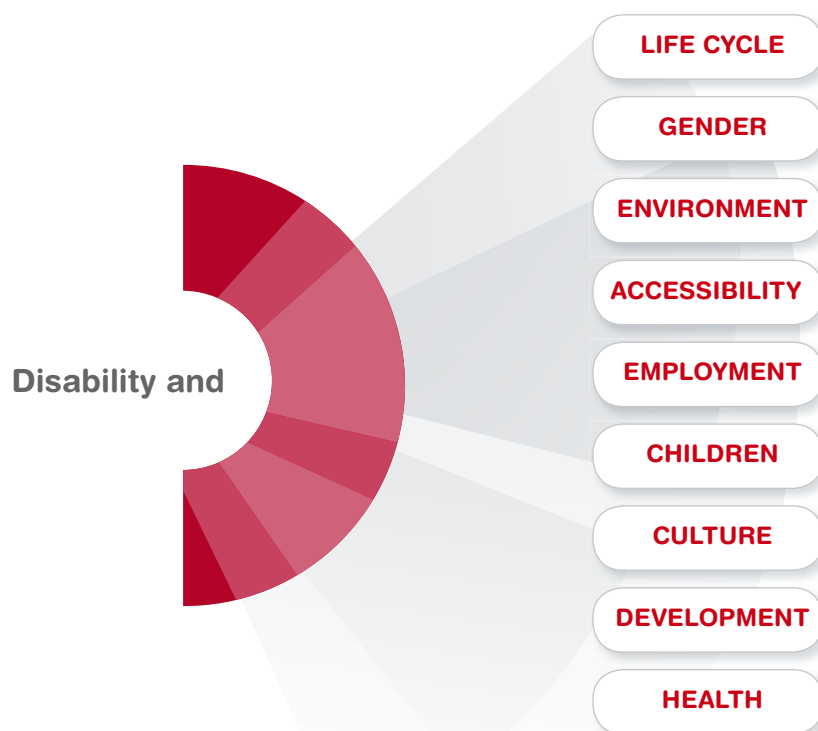
Within this framework, the aim of the CSR + D European Network and EFC partnership through Agora+D is to carry out specific activities addressed to foundations and corporate funders.

The EFC Consortium, with the support of one of its members, the Essl Foundation, which is sharing its expertise from the Zero Project[2], has researched good practices from the foundation sector focused specifically on disability as cross-programme initiative with a strong component of social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

A call for good practices was made in September 2014 where foundations all over Europe were asked to nominate their projects, using a questionnaire especially developed for this research. The questionnaires contained elements accordingly to the following selection criteria:

NEED	The good practice must be developed under a clear, relevant and defined objective or necessity.
INNOVATION	Applied either in the design or development of the product, service or business model.
DISABILITY	The essence and centre of the good practice.
INTEGRATION	Disability included under a clear CSR, Social Innovation or Social Entrepreneurship strategy or policy (not stand-alone or isolated actions).
MEASURABLE	The good practice has been evaluated, proved and measured to quantify the impact.
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH	Inclusion of the different stakeholders either in the definition, development, or evaluation.
SHARED VALUE	Creation of added value to all the different stakeholders.
SCALABILITY	Generation of a change and transforming effect capable of inspiring other organisations in order to promote replicability and scalability.

The research team of the Essl Foundation has been in touch with more than 20 foundations all over Europe. More than 25 projects were either nominated or the nomination of a project was discussed with the Essl Foundation team. By the end of November 2014, 11 projects and programs from 11 different foundations were selected for this booklet as case studies. Each of these case studies has a similar structure, and is written in plain language. The good practices are structured in the following categories:

Disability and

- LIFE CYCLE
- GENDER
- ENVIRONMENT
- ACCESSIBILITY
- EMPLOYMENT
- CHILDREN
- CULTURE
- DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTH

The European Foundation Centre along with the European Funders on Social Change and Human Rights (ARIADNE), organized a webinar on 26 November 2014 on how disability as a cross-cutting issue can produce broader, high-impact, systemic change at local, region and national level. Representatives from the foundation world took part in the webinar sharing some of their best practices and giving real examples on how partnering with different actors to look for creative and alternative avenues to addressing social issues such as social innovation and entrepreneurship can become a key opportunity for people with disabilities.

Fundación ONCE, as the leader of the CSR European Network and the Agora+D initiative has participated and contributed in the whole process of the work involved and production of this publication.

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[2] The Essl Foundation has a broad research base on disability projects not only in Europe, but also worldwide. Its flagship project, the Zero Project, researches annually Innovative Practices and Innovative Policies that help to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The Zero Project's criteria for selecting innovative practices has been recognized as a unique and valuable approach by more than 3.000 international experts that are part of the Zero Project Network and contributed in one way or the other since 2011 (www.zeroproject.org).

1

DISABILITY AND LIFE CYCLE
Focus on Social Service

ORGANISATION
The Atlantic Philanthropies

COUNTRY
Ireland

TOPIC
Disability and Life Cycle

PROJECT
Genio

WEBSITE
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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Genio, funded by **Atlantic Philanthropies**, aims is to improve the lives of people with disabilities, mental health difficulties and dementia. Over 52,000 people with disabilities use services in Ireland, 8,100 of whom are in full time residential care and almost 4,000 people with disabilities still live in institutions, many with little choice or control over their lives. Genio works to bring Government and philanthropic funders together to develop better ways to support disadvantaged people to live full lives in their communities.

GENIO   The ATLANTIC Philanthropies

Organisation

The Atlantic Philanthropies is dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. As a limited-life foundation, they make grants through Ageing, Children & Youth, Population Health, Reconciliation & Human Rights, and Founding Chairman Programmes. Atlantic Philanthropies are active in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United States. They made their final grants in Australia in 2011, and in Bermuda, South Africa and Vietnam in 2013.

Approach

Genio has developed a unique approach to bringing about systemic change. Developing a collaborative relationship between Government and philanthropy from the outset offers a much better chance of achieving improvements beyond demonstration projects and across whole systems of social service. Genio´s approach to achieving reform has three elements:

- **Innovation Funding:** Release of funds on a competitive basis to encourage innovation and cost-effectiveness. These funds are outcome-focused and performance-managed.
- **Learning & Skills:** Support and training of key stakeholders to manage and implement required changes.
- **Measuring Impact:** Undertake and commission research to measure impact.

Background

Genio's work grew out of recognition that complex public systems, with ingrained practices and vested interests cannot reform themselves. Philanthropists often fund the development and testing of models of best practice but strategies for mainstreaming on the basis of proven success alone have been shown to be overly optimistic. Meanwhile, governments invest significant amounts every year in an effort to address social problems which persist and the gap in funding required continues to grow. Genio brings these interests together to achieve lasting change that can be difficult, if not impossible, for either to achieve alone.

Disability component

Disability policy in Ireland is to bring about a "fundamental change in approach …that is predominantly centred on group – based service delivery towards a model of person – centred and individually chosen supports."[3] Ireland has inherited a legacy of institutions and almost 4,000 people with disabilities still live in institutions, many with little choice or contol over their lives. Genio is helping to bridge the gap between the reality of current supports and the national policy already in place.

Social innovation

A fundamental rethink is needed in how we respond to people who need support to live as included members of the community. Genio is working to close the gap between implementation and policy, identifying impact and shared learning across social sectors. Developing collaborative options is critical. Genio offers Government opportunity to reroute funding in a policy-bound direction and philanthropic/private funders opportunities for high impact and sustainable social investment.

Success factors

Often foundations concentrate on enhancing either the supply of services or on the development of advocacy. Both are critical. The Genio model is recognised as providing potential to dramatically improve a range of social services where:
- There is a gap between implementation and policy that puts the citizen at the centre of service design and delivery.
- Existing resources can be reconfigured to provide significantly improved levels of service for citizens.

Challenge

A deep divide exists between those who are disadvantaged and the rest of society. The numbers of people left stranded at the margins continues to outstrip the pace and scale of our attempts to close this chasm. Over 52,000 people with disabilities for example use services in Ireland, 8,100 of whom are in full time residential care (4,000 still in institutions). Demand for places is rising by 500 a year which means demand will almost double by 2025 to 15,600.

Scalability

An independent study of the Genio model, which focused on people with disabilities who moved from institutions to be supported in the community, concluded that the approach resulted in improvements in the lives of service users and overall reduction in costs. There is now evidence and appetite to ingrain the model more deeply and widely within Irish social services. It is evident that the approach could be applied to other fields and in other countries as it helps meet the challenges of reform.

Results

Genio has supported 227 disability, mental health and dementia projects to date, reaching over 14,500 people. More than 5,500 people have received individualised services while almost 9,000 families, carers and staff have received information and training. €23.6m in innovation funding have been awarded to these projects, which in turn has leveraged €31.7m from the service providers concerned, which illustrates how reform is embedded in the system as part of the funding process.

"**Genio** is an example of effective collaboration between Government, philanthropy and non-profit sectors in the face of a clear need for a more customer focused and cost-effective approach to providing and reforming social services; and the recognition of the role that an independent organisation can play in bringing together the resources and people in every sector who want to and are making a difference."

Mr. Brian Kearney-Grieve
Atlantic Philanthropies

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[3]Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services in Ireland, JULY 2012DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/VFM_Disability_Services_Programme_2012.pdf)

2

DISABILITY AND LIFE CYCLE
Focus on Personal Rights

ORGANISATION
Fondation de France

COUNTRY
France

TOPIC
Disability and Life Cycle

PROJECT
Papillons blancs

WEBSITE
www.fondationdefrance.org

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Organisation

Since 1969, **Fondation de France** supports concrete and innovative projects that meet the needs of people when facing the rapid development of society. It acts primarily in three areas: the support of vulnerable people, the development of knowledge and the environment. It also promotes the development of philanthropy.

Approach

Do you want or can't you? is a film which required a lot of preparation and training of people with disabilities who were also the main actors. Some of the main tools used were pictures containing repeated explanations so that the scenario could be well understood by the actors. Without claiming to give straight answers, this film gives people with disabilities the possibility of expressing with their own words the obstacles and experiences in their everyday personal life, to convey their desires for having an open emotional and sexual life. The film is at a very high demand and has been broadcasted in cinemas, social work institutes, medico-social structures etc. This project is based on the direct participation of people with disabilities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Papillons blancs, a project of Fondation de France, is an association that manages several establishments and services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the area of Dunquerque in the North of France. Up until a few years ago, besides other activities, the association accompanied resident adults in dealing with questions of emotional life and sexuality. Discussion groups were established and an educative team was trained for the support of the sexual life of people with disabities. This project further included the realisation of a film tackling the theme of sexuality. The idea came from a demand made by the residents, some of them who had past theatrical experience. The result matured into the 50 minute film **Do you want or can't you?**, interpreted by the residents themselves.

FONDATION DE FRANCE

Background

A few years ago, the association **Papillons blancs** started a programme to support resident adults on their questions regarding emotional life and sexuality. The discussion first took place in the form of groups and in parallel to a team of professionals who were trained on how to tackle those issues. As a result of this work, residents have now the right to fully live their affective and sexual life in the establishment.

Social innovation

Nothing for us, without us: this strong claim suggests the involvement of people with disabilities in everything that regards themselves should be taken as a basic principle in the field of sexuality and personal life in general as it deeply concerns the intimity, emotions and feeling of an individual. The direct involvement of people with disabilities in the development, recording and dissemination of the movie can be considered as one of the major innovations of the project.

Challenge

The film was initially thought as a training tool to support people with disabilities in their lifestyle choice expecially regaring personal life. It is difficult for a third person to express what people with intellectual disability have in their minds in their place. Hence it is important for the person to communicate directly. As a consecuence, the message has more impact in particular during the debates with professionals carers, parents, friends, or other people with disabilities.

Results

The film has now a very high demand and has been broadly diffused nationally: cinemas, social work institutes and medico-social structures are inclreasingly using it for educational purposes. Furthermore, people directly involved in the film as actors have now learned how to manage their speech in public with theatral techniques. As a consequence, they can now really take an active part in the debates and in their everyday lives, they are more trustful in general.

Success factors

The success of this project which tackles such a delicate topic directly comes from an important collaborative investment. This success clearly demonstrates that there should not be a shift between the association´s principles and the real life condition and rules which people with mental disabilities are subjected to.

Scalability

This project is based on the direct participation of people with disabilities and tackles an important need of people with disabilities that is considered taboo and commonly left out of debates. This could be considered as an example on how to tackle the issue of sexual and personal right for people with disabilities. It can be used as a great replicable and scalable tool to raise awareness.

3

ORGANISATION
Sabanci Foundation

COUNTRY
Turkey

TOPIC
Disability and Life Cycle

PROJECT
Rights Based Struggle of Women with Disabilities

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Launched by a group of empowered women with disabilities themselves, the project **Rights Based Struggle of Women with Disabilities** aims to reach out other women with disabilities, to inform them about their rights and invite them to raise awareness about their issues in their own localities. Implemented by the Association of Women with Disabilities, the project envisions women with disabilities taking an active role in solving their own problems and therefore has a rights based approach. Since 2012 the project has provided trainings to 160 women with disabilities on rights, gender issues and discrimination in 8 different cities of Turkey. It has also raised awareness about the issues of women with disabilities in women NGOs, media and local authorities.

SA BANCI VAKFI

DISABILITY AND GENDER
Focus on Women Rights

Organisation

Sabanci Foundation programs and investments are guided by its main mission; "To promote social development and social awareness among current and future generations by supporting initiatives that create impact and lasting change in people's lives". Ongoing donations by other family members and contributions from the Sabanci Group companies have helped to increase the scope of Sabanci Foundation's efforts across Turkey. Today, Sabanci Foundation is one of the largest family foundations in Turkey and the first one to launch grant-making.

Approach

The project **Rights Based Struggle of Women with Disabilities** envisions women with disabilities taking an active role in solving their own problems and therefore, has a rights based approach. Thanks to this project, women NGOs realised the need to integrate the disability lens into their work. Furthermore, for the first time a training has been designed addressing the specific needs of women with disabilities in Turkey. The project and the implementing organisation launched the women with disabilities movement in Turkey.

Background

Women with disabilities face discrimination almost every day for both having disabilities and being women. The workforce participation rate in Turkey is 49%. The same rate is 29% for women and only 7% for women with disabilities. Women with disabilities face a double disadvantage in literacy as well. While Turkey has 91% literacy rate, only 52% of women with disabilities are literate. This everyday discrimination is internalized by society but also by the disabled women themselves. Women are not sufficiently aware of their rights as women and persons with disabilities. Therefore they are not organized enough to fight discrimination. NGOs working on women's rights mostly ignore the double disadvantage faced by women with disabilities. On the other hand NGOs working on persons with disabilties are generally male-dominant and are not willing to take gender issues into their consideration. So there is a need to launch women with

...senin bir alfaben var bu alfabeyi kullanabiliyorsun ve...

disabilities movement and to do that women with disabilities should learn their rights, get empowered and organized for their own struggle.

Disability component

The project specifically works on women with disabilities. Until now, women with visual, hearing and physical disabilities and cerebral palsy took part in the project.

Challenge

In Turkey women with disabilities are raised with an understanding that "they are incapable of protecting their chastity and they cannot do anything in life". This understanding makes it difficult for women with disabilities to socially and economically participate in life. These discriminatory roles on women with disabilities are internalized by society but also by women themselves.

Results

Since 2012, the project has provided trainings to 160 women in 8 different Turkish cities. It has also raised awareness about the issues of women with disabilities in women NGOs, media and local authorities. After taking the trainings, some of the women with disabilities decided to continue their education or start working. Many of them decided to become a member of Association of Women with Disabilities. Women in Bursa (a province of Turkey) established their own Association of Women with Disabilities. Women in Trabzon prepared a documentary for the first time in Turkey about the problems and discrimination that women with disabilities face.

Success factors

It is the first time in Turkey that a training for the specific needs of women with disabilities is designed. As the training progressed many of them began to realize that there is discrimination at the base of their problems, and that much of what they had experienced was actually a violation of their rights. The project and the implementing organisation launched the women with disabilities movement in Turkey.

Scalability

The project has the potential of introducing the double disadvantage experienced by women with disabilities, to NGOs working on women's rights and persons with disabilities. So that they can integrate the gender and disability perspective into their operations.

> **"The biggest change in me was this: We have disabilities and we live with these, but we really are not very aware of our rights. Here, I learned what kind of rights we have. From now on I am going to become more connected with disability associations, and think about what I can do and how I can be involved."**
>
> **Beneficiary of the project**
> **A woman attending one of the trainings**

4

DISABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
Focus on Historical Heritage Protection and Accessibility

ORGANISATION
The League of Historical and Accessible Cities (LHAC)

COUNTRIES
Italy, France, Spain, Bulgaria, Denmark and Croatia

TOPIC
Disability and Environment

PROJECT
The League of Historical and Accessible Cities (LHAC)

WEBSITE
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CONTACT
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Organisation

The LHAC is a joint initiative of several European foundations, initiated by the European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability, a thematic network of some European Foundation Centre members engaged in disability issues. More particularly, Fondazione Banca Monte di Lucca is working with the city of Lucca; Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino is working with Torino; Centre Français des Fonds et Fondations, Fondation Réunica, and Fondation de France are working with Mulhouse; Fundación ONCE is working with Ávila; Sozopol Foundation is working with the city of Sozopol; and a Danish consortium of foundations (Bevica Foundation, Danish Disability Foundation, Labour Market Holiday Fund, and Realdania) is collaborating with the city of Vibor.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The League of Historical and Accessible Cities (LHAC) was launched in 2010 within the EFC European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability. The LHAC is a pilot project that invested over 7 million Euros in improving the accessibility of historical towns in Europe while promoting at the same time both the development of responsible tourism and the protection of cultural heritage. Its main aim is to find innovative ways to reconcile cultural heritage protection and accessibility, which is one of the biggest challenges in Europe and an important field for the foundation sector to engage in. The LHAC common goal is to give all visitors the chance to exercise their full rights as citizens to visit, explore and understand these historical environments. Through accessibility improvements, the 80 million people with disabilities living in Europe can have their life standards increased and, at the same time, live in a more sustainable environment.

efc
EUROPEAN FOUNDATION CENTRE

Approach

11 foundations in 5 different countries have simultaneously implemented the project across Europe and teamed up with local authorities, disability groups, architects and urban planning experts. They aim to design accessible itineraries along which people with all types of disabilities can visit shops, restaurants, museums and other key tourist attractions of the 6 historical cities involved in the project in order to have an unforgettable touristic experience. At the heart of this work programme there is on one hand the need to overcome many physical barriers to access – some of which may have existed for centuries – and on the other hand to preserve the historical originality and authenticity of those cities.

Background

Europe's historical cities, museums, ancient buildings, monuments and townscapes are renowned worldwide for their beauty, diversity and historical significance. Millions of people visit them every year but many others feel unwelcome due to physical barriers and inadequate services that prevent people with sensory or physical disabilities from accessing them. This project aims to respond to these two main questions related to one of the biggest challenges in Europe regarding accessibility: How is it possible to make historical city centres and buildings more accessible without compromising their cultural heritage? How can wider access be reconciled with conservation interests?

Disability component

This project can be considered as an interesting example of cities improving accessibility and sustainable tourism at the same time. A best practice guide was published as a tool for foundations and other stakeholders in order to encourage them to set up similar projects. A particular characteristic is the public-private partnerships set up among different organisations at local and national level in an effort to foster social inclusion of people with disabilities. A wide range of key local stakeholders is in fact taking part in the realisation of the itineraries including architects, urban planners, engineers, and researchers. Furthermore the LHAC is focused on the beneficiaries, which are constantly involved through their representative associations in the development and testing of solutions.

Social innovation

The LHAC experience is to be considered as a practical learning opportunity for local authorities, building owners, enterprisesas well as other enti-

ties and stakeholders. LHAC members are thus engaged in exploring the process of universal design of historical accessible cities in a wider sense. Museums, universities and research centres focusing on new technologies have been involved throughout the planning and implementation processes. From this point of view, the project is therefore expected to contribute to the cities´ long-term cultural and social development. Improved access to a city's cultural heritage makes it more dynamic and attractive to its residents and tourists and thereby increases its economic profit and growth.

Challenge

The most difficult challenge has been to find a compromise between cultural heritage protection and the need for a city to be accessible for all. Other challenges involved planning interventions at the local level to improve accessibility in the environment; raising awareness of a barrier-free environment for all; involving persons with disabilities, and receiving all authorisations.

Results

The project is allowing people with disabilities and others to enjoy leisure and cultural activities, stimulating sustainable tourism among the 80 million people with disabilities living in Europe and contributing to the cities´ long-term cultural, social and economic development. As a result, the project has become a hub for the exchange of best practices and know-how, and has created a network of foundations, cities and NGOs that can be taken as an example for similar projects. Last but not least, the project has implemented fully accessible routes in these 6 city centres.

Success factors

This project is characterised by the progressive cooperation with other stakeholders, the coordination with local authorities and the interactions between all social actors: public bodies, private entities, disabled and elderly people's organisations, cultural associations and foundations working together. This approach takes into account the point of view of people with disabilities directly into the heart of the project in order to implement better solutions. The initial goal for each city was to have 1-kilometre long of accessible itineraries, but the project was so successful that the average length of the accessible route in each city averages 3 kilometres. The project owes much of its success to new technologies, which have gone a long way towards solving the dilemma between accessibility and heritage protection.

Scalability

The experience of the LHAC started from a common objective leading to searching for solutions. In the end, except for technology or ICT, nothing was invented. One of the main characteristics of the project is that, besides a common goal, every project grows at its own pace in relation to the characteristics of each city. This is why it can be considered as one model to follow which is perfectly replicable and scalable. The story of the League stands as an example for any single foundation or group of foundations who want to achieve something in any field; it inspires new forms of collaboration for any foundation who would like to work to create social change.

"Since the beginning, we thought it was impossible to think about a project for improving accessibility without involving people with disabilities. Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca set up a work plan involving organisations in the disability sector and people with disability bringing their knowledge and perspective. Involving people with disabilities is a crucial aspect; they are our 'guardian angels' helping us to focus on problems and suggesting solutions."

Ms. Elizabeth Franchini
Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca

5

ORGANISATION
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

COUNTRY
Portugal

TOPIC
Disability and Environment/
Accessibility

PROJECT
ColorADD

WEBSITE
www.gulbenkian.pt

CONTACT
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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

ColorADD, a project of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, is a universal graphic code whose mission is to enable the colorblind to identify colors whenever color is a factor of communication, orientation or choice. It supports the social integration of persons with color vision deficiency. The code is based upon symbols representing the 3 primary colors, through the acquired knowledge of Color Addition, the symbols can be related and an entire color palette identified enabling colorblind to identify colors.

ColorADD
Color Identification System

CALOUSTE
GULBENKIAN
FOUNDATION

DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY
Focus on Color Information

Organisation

Established in 1956 as a Portuguese foundation for the whole of humanity, the Foundation's original purpose focused on fostering knowledge and raising the quality of life of persons throughout the fields of the arts, charity, science and education. Bequeathed by the last will and testament of **Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian**, the Foundation is of perpetual duration and undertakes its activities structured around its headquarters in Lisbon (Portugal) its delegations in Paris (France) and London (the United Kingdom).

Approach

The main objective is to spread of the **ColorADD** Code and to benefit as many colorblind as possible, while improving their daily life quality. This aim is measured through the number and the spectrum of applications where the ColorADD code is available for the colorblind around the world and therefore achieving more social impact, awareness and scalability, since only its effective widespread use will deploy full integration of the colorblind. Sustainability is achieved with both models of commercial licensing for companies, where the license fees are adapted to its dimension, and a pro-bono model for schools and universities. In 2012 **ColorADD Social**- a non-profit association was created. ColorADD Social wants to reach as many children as possible allowing their integration without discriminating. The social operation is based on the following: **1.** Awareness and capacitation sessions at the school communities; **2.** Delivery of the School Kit to the kids in particular in the early school years; **3.** Color blindness screening in schools through pro-bono partnerships with local optometrists and with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation among others.

Background

ColorADD wants to help to solve the problem of Colorblindness (that affects approx. 350 million people in the world) allowing integration while keeping the privacy of colorblind – including, without discriminating. Colorblindness is estimated to
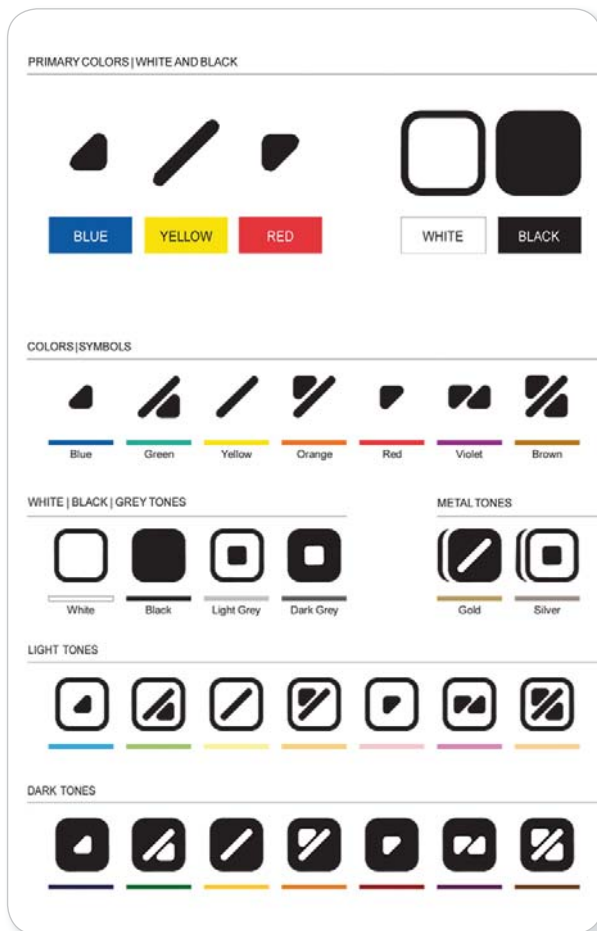
affect 10% of the male and 0,5% of the female population, approx. 350 million people worldwide. Despite this impressive number, there were no socially effective responses aiming to the inclusion of this "large minority" population, because there is a lack of general knowledge regarding the issue of colorblindness, and the constraints of those who live every day with this limitation.

Disability component

Colorblindness is estimated to affect 10% of the male and 0,5% of the female population, approx. 350 million people worldwide. Such limitation derives in social and professional constrain. Despite this impressive number, there were no socially effective responses aiming to the inclusion of this "large minority" population, because there is a lack of general knowledge regarding the issue of colorblindness and the constraints of those who live every day with this limitation.

Social innovation

The model is based on creating Shared Value in a 3WIN perspective (win-win-win): ColorADD, business/organitasions and society. The ColorADD is a system that creates economic and social value

to companies/entities by offering their public an innovative product with a strong social footprint. The social and economic impact is shared by ColorADD and by partners as well as by society (the persons with color vision deficiency) that benefit from a tailor-made solution without any costs for them.

Challenge

The main objective is to spread of the ColorADD Code and to benefit as many colorblind as possible, improving their quality of daily life. This aim is measured through the number and the spectrum of applications where the ColorADD code is available for the colorblind around the world and therefore achieving more social impact, awareness and scalability, since only its effective widespread use will enable full integration of the colorblind.

Results

ColorADD is creating Shared Value with our partners for all Colorblind. It is implemented in several areas such as Transports (Subway maps), City Administration (e.g. Maps, Accessibility), Health (Accessibility and pharmaceutical labeling), Photoluminescent Safety Signs,Textiles and Shoes (labeling), Pencils, Textbooks Publishers, Food Retail (Traffic light nutrition label), Didactic Games, Solid Waste Industry, General Industry (Catalogs), IT (APP, Color WEB Picker) amongst others achieving expertise.

Success factors

Actions promoted by companies should have the greatest impact, in the sense of being shared by the greatest number of individuals and result in new systems of co-creating social and economic value between social businesses and traditional business in order to capitalize the best of both. When there is something new and is pure innovation, only hard work made step-by-step to achieve a mission will ensure sustainability grows with social impact.

Scalability

The code is universal because it is a simple language that can be understood anywhere in the world, allowing that tested applications of ColorADD code can be used and replicate worldwide. A pack of tools containing ColorADD's learning, communication and implementation material in digital format is provided. The ColorADD overall objective is to integrate colorblind people, in Co-Creation with companies.

6

DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT
Focus on Young People

ORGANISATION
Fundación ONCE

COUNTRY
Spain

TOPIC
Disability and Employment

PROJECT
No te rindas nunca

WEBSITE
www.fundaciononce.es
www.noterindasnunca.org

CONTACT
Ms. Maria Tussy
mtussy@fundaciononce.es

Organisation

The **Fundación ONCE** for the Cooperation and Social inclusion of People with Disabilities was founded in 1988, by agreement of the ONCE General Council, as an instrument of cooperation and solidarity from the Spanish blind towards other Disabilities. Our goals are employment and accessibility.

Background

Fundación ONCE manages the Spanish Operational Programme (OP) "Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013", co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), which serves as a strategic pillar for achieving the foundational goals. In the framework of the OP, Fundación ONCE counts on FSC Inserta, an entity belonging to the foundation in charge of implementing direct actions on training and employment of people with disabilities. Fundación ONCE and FSC inserta have launched in 2013 the project **Never Give Up** for youngsters with disabilities, in the context of economic crisis where the unemployment rate in Spain has escalated, particularly among young people.

Disability component

The project NTRN (Never Give Up) is specifically targeted at young people with disabilities, aged 16-29. Therefore Disability is at the centre of and the reason for this initiative.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The project **Never Give Up** (**No te rindas nunca**, in Spanish, standing for "NTRN") includes a group of different actions for the period 2013-2015 aimed at improving employability and labour inclusion of youngsters aged 16-29 with disabilities. The Plan is based on a Roadmap to Employment, involving actions related to youngsters identity, coaching and guidance on job search including the use of social networks and new technologies, training at different levels and internships, company welcome plans and guidance, follow up, studies and analysis, management of job offers, work positions analysis and recruitment consulting services as well as actions supporting entrepreneurship.

Fundación ONCE

Social innovation

The project NTRN represents a social innovation initiative, being an action that aims at providing practical solutions and contributing to a significant social issue such as youth unemployment, particularly in a country like Spain with unprecedented figures in this field. Furthermore, NTRN is an initiative promoted FROM the social sector, in this case the disability sector represented by Fundación ONCE. The social entrepreneurship component is included in one of the activities of the project.

Challenge

The challenge of the project NTRN is double: to contribute to solving the alarming problem of youth unemployment in Europe, particularly in Spain, as well as the specific situation of young people with disabilities, a population group structurally disadvantaged in several fields. Employment is the pillar for social inclusion, and this idea articulates the whole NTRN project, and more in generally the whole activity of Fundación ONCE.

Results

Internally the NTRN project has strengthened the idea that Fundación ONCE can significantly contribute to society, and that solutions TO disability issues can be provided FROM the disability sector. Externally, figures give an example of the impact: in November 2014, more than 6,000 youngsters with disabilities had been activated, more than 3,300 trained and 1,500 labour insertions have taken place. The NTRN project has produced a key communication campaign: **www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KKe4_ugaXI**

Success factors

Fundación ONCE has experienced once more the added value of the European Funds, particularly the ESF in regards to fostering social and labour inclusion of disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities, particularly youngsters with disabilities. In this case, contributing to meet the Europe 2020 objectives. One of the key success factors has been the strong alliances Fundación ONCE has built in the past, coming from the public administration sector, private companies and civil society.

Scalability

NTRN project aims to inspire both individuals (with and without disabilities) and organisations, while spreading the message that one can be part of the solution not only of the problem, thereby enhancing the culture of valuing talent, effort, responsi-

Una persona se descubre cuando se mide contra un obstáculo. *Antoine de Saint-Exupery.*

NO TE RINDAS NUNCA

Plan para la inclusión laboral de jóvenes con discapacidad

Entra en noterindasnunca.org

ble competitiveness from organisations and equal opportunities. This example shows how Foundations can be at the centre of agents of change and solutions. **www.noterindasnunca.org** (link only in Spanish).

> **"We intend to take advantage, to make the most of the talent of youngsters with disabilities, who can achieve the most difficult. They are our "NEET" (standing for Not in Education, Employment, or Training*): they neither give up nor they resign, and they look up to the future, making whatever effort is necessary to achieve their objective, which now is employment".**

*In Spain the expression used for NEET is "NI NI", meaning Neither Working nor in Training, which explains the expression used by Mr. Durán.

Alberto Durán López
Executive Vice-president of Fundación ONCE

7

DISABILITY AND CHILDREN
Focus on Deinstitutionalisation and Participation

ORGANISATION
Lumos Foundation

COUNTRY
United Kingdom

TOPIC
Disability and Children

PROJECT
Deinstitutionalisation and Child Participation in Moldova

WEBSITE
www.wearelumos.org/

CONTACT
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Organisation

Lumos is an international children's NGO, founded by J. K. Rowling, working to end the systematic and harmful practice of the institutionalisation of children. Lumos works to support the 8 million children in institutions worldwide to regain their right to a family life and has offices in the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova and the United States.

Approach

Lumos has several programmes in Central and Eastern Europe where it supports the process of deinstitutionalization – the whole scale reform of systems, replacing institutions with family and community based alternatives. As part of this, the organisation works with groups of children and young people to build their advocacy skills and works with the community and national authorities to create appropriate environments and processes to nurture their participation and respond to their views. In Bulgaria and the Czech Republic Lumos has supported the development of groups of young self-advocates with intel-

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

A key ingredient to a truly inclusive society is the existence of systems and opportunities that enable all citizens to participate in the design and implementation of the services that they use and the policies that have an impact on their lives. Participatory processes lead to better-designed, more personalised health, social and educational services. Children are all too often not consulted and where genuinely child-friendly participatory mechanisms do exist, they rarely seek out and act on the views of children with disabilities. The slogan **nothing about us without us** is especially resonant for the estimated 8 million children worldwide who live in institutions, where regimented daily routines are the norm and children live segregated from the community and any opportunities to participate in and contribute to it. Lumos works to put an end to institutionalisation and in doing so empower the children and young people affected by it, so they can raise their voices for change and influence their own futures and the community services and support that they may need.

LUMOS
Working to transform the lives of disadvantaged children

lectual disabilities, many of whom live in institutions or are in the process of preparing to leave them. In Serbia, Lumos is working with children with disabilities on an EIDHR[4] project focused on children with disabilities´ participation in developing national child protection mechanisms. In Moldova, Lumos works with groups of children with disabilities and their non-disabled peers in the newly inclusive school environment that has been created, with Lumos guidance, as part of the deinstitutionalization programme.

Description of child participation

Lumos child participation work brings children with intellectual disabilities living in residential institutions together with those living in families and with their non-disabled siblings and peers. The children and young people attended working group and transnational meetings, providing an innovative and likely never experienced opportunity for policy makers across CEE to interact with and learn from an individual with a disability. Facilitating connections between children at a local level and decision makers at the highest levels allowed for the modelling of good practice of how to systematically translate international legislation into practical action. An adult with intellectual disabilities who works as an activist, self-advocate and trainer, acted as a role model for the children and young people. This signficiantly increased the children and young people's expectations of themselves.

Child participation projects in Moldova have now been set up, building on Lumos' existing experiences in Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Serbia to ensure that children with special eduational needs not only attend classes in mainstream schools, but also are genuinely involved in school and extracurricular activities and integrated in their communities and families. Children and young people with disabilities have already become self-advocates sharing their experiences with policy makers at national and international events.

Background

Amongst other countries including Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, Lumos works in Moldova, Europe's poorest country. Until recently it had one of the highest rates of institutionalisation in the European region. Approx 50% of children in institutions were those with disabilities living in residential special schools; they were separated

from their families primarily because the only education for children with disabilities was provided in segregated schools; parents felt they had no choice but to institutionalise their children to receive an education. Conditions in the institutions were poor; children were at high risk of abuse; educational outcomes were also poor. Many children with minor developmental delays were misdiagnosed with an intellectual disability.

The Moldovan deinstitutionalisation process, works to reintegrate children into their families or community-based care. The programme was planned and executed in coordination with the development of an inclusive education programme to demonstrate that running both programmes together would be more successful, for two reasons. Firstly, in order for children to come home from institutions to their families, inclusive education services were necessary in the community. Secondly, residential institutions are expensive; the money needed for inclusive education was transferred from funds for the residential institutions, as the DI programme resulted in reduced numbers in institutions.

The programmes specifically focused on bringing children with intellectual disabilities living in residential institutions together with those living in families and with their non-disabled siblings and peers. As a result, the health, development and future life chances of Moldova's most vulnerable children will improve. In addition, society is becoming more inclusive. Where children whith disabilities were previously hidden away in institutions, they are now part of the everyday life of communities.

Disability component

Disability is a common reason for children to be institutionalised. Due to lack of specialised healthcare and inclusive education in communities, parents of children with disabilities are often made to feel that they do not have a choice but to place their child in institutions. When the Moldovan government started a deinstitutionalisation programme, most people involved focused on children without disabilities, because they knew it was not possible to get children whith disabilities out of institutions without setting up inclusive education.

Children with disabilities were being left out of the reform. Through its work and collaboration with government, Lumos ensured that all measures taken to support children's move back to their families or into community-based care were fully inclusive for children with disabilities.

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[4]The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Social innovation

Meaningful inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in policy arenas remains highly innovative. In Moldova, a low income country, the key to successful deinstitutionalisation and the development of inclusive education, was combining both programmes. In particular, the analysis of finances, the ring-fencing of funding for institutions at national level and the transfer of those funds to community based services, such as inclusive education. This innovative financial and joint planning approach has resulted in sustainable change in a challenging environment.

Challenge

Changing attitudes - even of parents can take time. One parent in Bulgaria said, "These child participation activities are even changing our mind-set. The first time I was asked what my child could do, it took me by surprise. It had never occurred to me to think about what he could do; I only thought of things that he couldn't do."

Results

- There are significant improvements in the development and educational outcomes of children with disabilities who moved home from institutions and were included in mainstream schools - this is proven by their assessment records and school results.
- Numbers of children in institutions have reduced by 70% in six years.
- Numbers of children in inclusive education have increased from virtually zero to 4,300 in four years.
- The government believes complete deinstitutionalisation is possible and inclusive education can be provided for all children with disabilities. An inter-ministerial strategy has been developed to complete the reform process in the next 4 – 5 years.
- More children in Moldova are receiving higher quality education and are more likely to become independent adults who are employed and are contributing to the economy.

- Children without disabilities in mainstream schools have significantly changed their attitudes to children with disabilities.

Success factors

Getting a law passed that transfers funds from residential institutions to community services disincentivises institutionalisation and provides long-term sustainability for the newly developed services. Demonstration programmes included the prior preparation of communities (parents, teachers and other children) to receive children with disabilities into their schools. Moldova proves that integrating both policies accelerates and improves quality of implementation of both programmes. Some children without disabilities volunteered to be 'promoters of inclusion' in their school; they forged strong friendships with their disabled peers.

Scalability

The project provides a model of how to ensure that children, especially some of the most marginalised children, including those in the care system and with disabilities, have their voices heard. The model can be replicted in other countries and build on existing work by connecting groups in different countries.

> **"Children do not have the right to vote; but children in institutions rarely have the right to choose the clothes they will wear, the food they will eat, or with whom they will share a bedroom. Genuine child participation not only raises awareness of the needs of these children but leads, ultimately, to improved policy – and, indeed, better services for all vulnerable children."**
>
> **Georgette Mulheir**
> **CEO of Lumos**

8
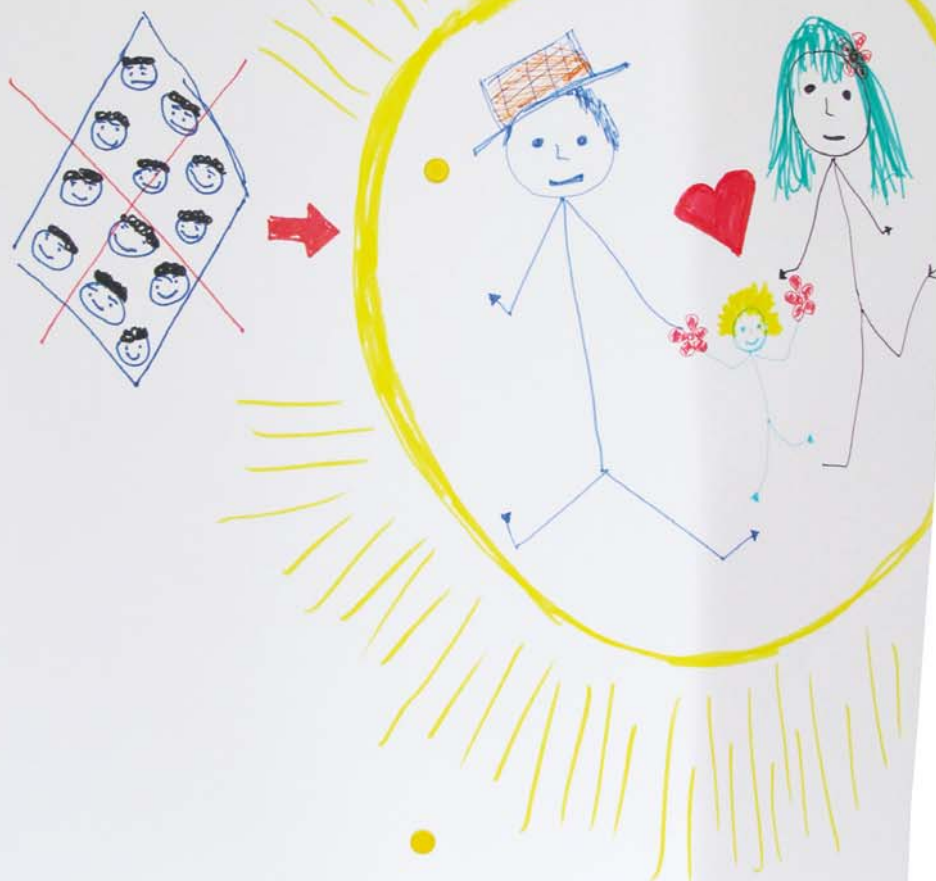
ORGANISATION
I CAN TOO Foundation

COUNTRY
Bulgaria

TOPIC
Disability and Children

PROJECT
The Centre for Children with Autism in Plovdiv

WEBSITE
www.icantoo.eu

CONTACT
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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

**Thanks to the awareness-building initiatives of I CAN TOO, the foundation is establishing a modern therapeutic center for children with autism that will provide not only individual help for autistic children, but also group sessions, art therapy, and parent support sessions.
All of those will ultimately result in a more accepting community that provides support and opportunities to people with autism and other disabilities.**

DISABILITY AND CHILDREN
Focus on Autism

Organisation

I CAN TOO Foundation helps children with special needs. Its activities are supported by in-kind contributions by individuals, companies, and the non-monetary partnership and support of the government. Many celebrities have become faces of I CAN TOO to promote its mission worldwide. I CAN TOO reaches over 3 million people per year by social initiatives, media and outdoor.

Approach

The therapeutic Centre for children with autism in Plovdiv has a modern approach by providing a part from individual help for children with autism, also group sessions, art therapy, and parent support sessions. **The Centre for Children with Autism in Plovdiv**, Bulgaria aims to support social adaptation and development of children aged 3-18 with difficulties in cognitive, emotional, speech development and social functioning through rationalization and consolidation of their spare time. Three major municipalities in Bulgaria have invited I CAN TOO to establish similar centres in their cities.

Background

I CAN TOO educates society about the problems of children with special needs, especially with autism. The narrow knowledge of Bulgarians about it is distorted. Thanks to the awareness-building initiatives during the last 7 years, the society is now familiar with autism.

Disability component

The Center for Children with Autism in Plovdiv, Bulgaria aims to support social adaptation and development of children aged 3-18 with difficulties in cognitive, emotional, speech development and social functioning through rationalization and consolidation of their spare time.

Social innovation

The innovation introduced in Bulgaria is the practice of in-kind donations, which is the main principle of work of the foundation. Companies, groups or individuals can join and help with whatever they can provide, which results in a network of people

from all spheres and businesses working together for the implementation of the initiative. The project also focuses on the specific needs of children with autism, and the process of their integration as equal participants in social life.

Challenge

Unofficial statistics show that there are over 16,000 children with autism in Bulgaria. Back in 2008, Bulgarian society was unaware of what autism is and how it affects lives. Things could be changed through continuous education and exposure to the subject of autism. I CAN TOO is constantly working on educating society about autism, which is becoming a common condition. The organisation has already made a great impact by utilizing cultural and social initiatives to expose that issue.

Results

The significant internal outcomes are: the establishment of a Centre for Children with Autism in Plovdiv entirely by in-kind donations (Beneficiaries in the region – 6,000 children); as a consequence of the successful project of the Center, I CAN TOO has been invited by three other major municipalities in Bulgaria to establish similar centres in other three cities in the country. Furthermore, because I CAN TOO pointed out the need for advocacy together with the different products and services for children with autism, many non-and for-profit organisations were created to serve this niche.

Success factors

I CAN TOO learned that with the help of the society it could change the attitude towards children with autism. The organisation was able to coordinate

the efforts of many supporters to expose the public to the problem of autism and invite the society to participate actively in the solution of that issue. This contributes to the integration of children with autism as equal participants in their communities and prevents discrimination.

Scalability

3 million people reached every year; changing the public attitude towards children with autism; replicating the model of the Center in other major cities in Bulgaria; increasing corporate social responsibility and voluntarily support; developing research programs and gathering statistics.

> "I CAN TOO supports children with special needs. The organisation is constantly working on raising awareness and educating society about autism, which is becoming more and more of a problem. The necessity for the establishment of a Center for Autistic Children in Plovdiv, Bulgaria is extremely urgent and high. Teams of trained specialists will offer a complete gamut of integrated services to the children and their parents in the center. As a result of the activities for social rehabilitation and integration of the children from the autistic spectrum, better quality conditions for their lives will be assured."
>
> **Mrs. Nelly Radeva**
> **I CAN TOO Foundation**

9

DISABILITY AND CULTURE
Focus on Creative Expression and Participation

ORGANISATION
Stavros Niarchos Foundation

COUNTRY
Greece

TOPIC
Disability and Culture

PROJECT
Art groups organized by
VSA Hellas - funded by SNF

WEBSITE
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www.snf.org

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Organisation

Stavros Niarchos Foundation is one of the world's leading private international philanthropic organisations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. The Foundation funds organisations and projects that are expected to achieve a broad, lasting and positive impact for society at large, and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also seeks actively to support projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare.

Approach

The Art groups offer both an opportunity and platform for people with disabilities to express their creativity, and develop their capabilities, but are also a vehicle for interaction with the general public and social recognition. In collaboration with established art professionals, which raises the

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Established in 1990, **Very Special Arts Hellas**, a member of VSA, the International organisation on arts and disability, is an organisation supported, among others, by the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**. It is dedicated to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the community, offering a range of opportunities for their creative expression and active participation. Engaging group members, VSA further organises experiential workshops in schools, performances and exhibitions to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the community as a whole. The Art groups offer both an opportunity and platform for people with disabilities to express their creativity, and develop their capabilities, but are also a vehicle for interaction with the general public and social recognition. Each of the groups is engaged in the production and public presentation of valuable artistic work, such as theatre and music performances, contributions to artistic enhancement interventions in Athens' public spaces and exhibitions, graphics and video creations, and participatory awareness raising through the arts workshops. The objective is to present work that places the artistic capabilities of the creator on the spotlight, rather than impairment.

Donor:

ΙΣΝ / SNF ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

artistic level of events, the organisation reaches out to the entire community, and not only the limited community of people with disabilities. This increases beneficiaries' self-esteem, and leads to their social recognition. Group members also successfully accompany VSA' educators in the organisation's awareness raising program in schools, assuming an active role in the creation of an inclusive society.

Background

Since the early 1990s, **VSA Hellas** has gradually developed its core activity, the organisation of art groups on theatre & music, dance, visual arts, and theatrical play, all bringing together people with and without disabilities and professionals, passionate about the arts, and engaged in promoting a positive and enabling approach on the role of people with disabilities in the cultural community. An inclusive group dedicated to younger children opened in 2015. While engaging group members, VSA further organises experiential workshops in schools, performances, exhibitions and professional trainings to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the arts community.

Disability component

Art groups bring together people with and without disabilities, offering an opportunity to enjoy moments of artistic creation, while cultural projects organized by VSA Hellas enable access to cultural life for art lovers with disabilities.

Social innovation

In collaboration with established art professionals, which raises the artistic level of events, the organisation reaches out to the mainstream arts community, and not only the limited community of people with disabilities. This increases beneficiaries' self-esteem, and leads to their social recognition. Group members also successfully accompany VSA' educators in the organisation's awareness raising program in schools, assuming an active role in the creation of an inclusive society.

Challenge

The initiative's purpose is dual, both to fill in the gap in the offering of artistic expression activities for individuals with any form of disability, but also to increase the limited opportunities for public presentation of valuable artistic work produced outside the traditional channels, which may be inaccessible for people with disabilities.

Results

To date over 300 individuals with any form of disability have directly benefited from participating in art groups, some regularly for up to 20 years, and 6,000 individuals have enjoyed access to cultural events. 750 students have attended experiential workshops, with the contribution of art group representatives, and up to 12,000 individuals have attended public performances and events. With the presence and recognition of its activities, the project also inspires the offering of relevant professionals.

Success factors

The promotion of artistic integrity and quality, rather than a focus on the limitations of disability, enhanced a participatory approach based on interest in an art form rather than the exclusive participation of people with (a specific type of) disabilities through a collaboration with art professionals who engage and take the time to understand disability disregarding erroneous predispositions. Likewise it enhanced a dynamic approach to mainstream institutions have been key elements of success.

Scalability

VSA Hellas has forged collaborations with public and private institutions in Greece, opening wider channels for interaction and artistic dialogue for people with disabilities. The combination of art groups' activities, with efforts on outreach such as awareness raising educational activities and professional trainings, can have a lever effect in mobilising cultural institutions to open their doors to people with disabilities, while actively including them in their programs.

"Art breaks barriers, unites people."

Mrs. Aslanidou
VSA Hellas

10

ORGANISATION
Essl Foundation

COUNTRY
Austria

TOPIC
Disability and Development

PROJECT
Zero Project – For a world without barriers

WEBSITE
www.esslsozialpreis.at/en/
essl-foundation/
www.zeroproject.org

CONTACT
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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The **Zero Project** is not a legal entity, but is an initiative led by a small core team of professionals from the **Essl Foundation**, the World Future Council and the European Foundation Centre, whereas the expertise comes from a huge network of all kinds of disability experts from around the world. In the last four years, more than 3,000 experts from more than 150 countries have contributed in different ways, such as by nominating outstanding projects, evaluating ideas and projects, developing social indicators etc. There are numerous supporters of the Zero Project who do a lot more than that, such as providing knowhow, time, networks and financial support.

DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT
Focus on a World without Barriers

Organisation

The **Zero Project** is a worldwide network, headquartered in Klosterneuburg close to Vienna (Austria). Other key members of the Zero Project team work in Geneva (World Future Council) and Brussels (European Foundation Centre). The Zero Project involves a great number of partner organisations that share the common interest of researching innovative practices and innovative policies, from UN and EU-organisations to international umbrella organisations, leading NGOs but also academics and businesses. The Zero Project is a worldwide network of experts that share their knowledge and expertise to create a common knowledge base in the form of Social Indicators, Innovative Practices and Policies and also support the communication of these results.

Synopsis

The Zero Project is an initiative of the Essl Foundation, which is located in Vienna, Austria. Working within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, our single aim is for a world without barriers. The Zero Project takes a solution-based approach to its work. Together with our network of over 3,000 disability experts in over 190 countries, we seek to identify the most innovative and effective practices and policies to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Moreover, tell the world about those practices and policies.

Approach

With the aim to promote solution-oriented approaches, Innovative Practices and Policies are communicated to decision-makers and opinion-leaders worldwide, from UN bodies and EU bodies to national and regional parliaments, government administrations, the media, DPOs, service-providers and other NGOs, foundations and academics that can make a difference by learning about the most Innovative Practices and Policies, and other solution-oriented approaches.

Each year a topic is chosen on which all the research is focused. In 2012/13, it was employment, in 2013/14, accessibility, in 2014/15, independent living and political participation, and in 2015/16, it will be education. In 2013/14, the Zero Project expert network nominated 243 Innovative Practices from 58 countries. 54 of them made it through the selection process, in which more than 200 experts took part. A majority of them presented their project at the Zero Project Conference in Vienna, more than third from outside developed countries.

Background

In 2007, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed and ratified by the first countries, now more than 150 have done so. The UN CRPD has proven to be an efficient instrument to support persons with disabilities. The implementation is a complex process that all governments are obliged to start when ratifying the UN CRPD. A process that can be facilitated by the availability of information about Best-Practices from other countries. The Zero Project has decided to work exactly here by researching and communicating Innovative Policies and Practices. It has chosen a broad network approach in involving experts.

Disability component

The Zero Project is constantly working to improve the quality of its research, widening its network and trying to reach even more persons directly in a way that can impact the lives of persons with disabilities, e.g. by 'localising' the Zero Project and its expertise to individual countries or on a regional level, in partnership with local DPOs and other partners. Guided by 'Nothing about us without us', the Zero Project involves persons with disabilities in every aspect of its work.

Social innovation

The whole Zero Project is about finding innovative solutions for persons with disabilities. The Zero Project itself is a highly innovative approach.

Challenge

The main challenge is to continue developing the Zero Project according to the needs of decision makers and opinion leaders worldwide. It will be necessary to engage even more with partner organisations worldwide to use synergies in order to achieve that goal.

Results

The Zero Project and even more the "Innovative Policies" and "Innovative Practices of the Zero Project" have attracted worldwide attention from leading decision makers and opinion leaders worldwide. In 2014 alone, results were presented in Geneva at the regular meeting of the UN Human Rights Council, in New York at the Conference of State Parties, and at numerous other conferences in Vienna, Oslo, Montreal, Washington, Brussels, Paris, Maputo and Cairo. The annual Zero Project Conference in Vienna has become a worldwide leading point of innovators and decision makers worldwide, 2014 with more than 450 participants from 50 different countries.

Regarding the impact of the Zero Project on the actual situation there is lot of anecdotal evidence, but a systematic evaluation is only in its beginnings.

Success factors

The success factors are the unique approach, a huge worldwide network of experts centred in the Civil Society. Also engaging governments, administrations and businesses, and the skills to jointly develop knowledge that is very useful for all decision makers and opinion leaders worldwide.

Scalability

The Zero Project model has a lot of potential for further growth, for example by deepening and broadening research, by localizing research to regions or even countries (in 2015, the Zero Project Austria is initiated only to select and promote Innovative Practices and Policies within the nine Austrian country states).

> **"The Zero Project´s mission is to work for a world without barriers, using a unique approach that involves already more than 3000 experts worldwide in selecting Innovative Practices and Policies, and researching social indicators."**
>
> **Martin Essl**
> **Founder of the Essl Foundation**

11

Focus on Community-Based Services

ORGANISATION
Open Society Foundations

COUNTRY
Croatia

TOPIC
Disability and Health

PROJECT
Mental Health Initiative (MHI)

WEBSITE
www.opensocietyfoundations.org

CONTACT
Ms Judith Klein
judith.klein@
opensocietyfoundations.org

Organisation

The **Open Society Foundations** work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. Working in every part of the world, the Open Society Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.

Approach

Since there was no civil society organisation at that time that could take on the kind of work MHI had envisioned, an NGO the Association for Promoting Inclusion (API), was created in 1997. These community-based supported housing models are now being replicated on a large scale in Croatia, with API providing the technical assistance to support others to develop services all over the country. MHI's 17 years of investment seem to have paid off in what may have looked like a lost cause, underpinning an unprecedented commitment to open society values for people with disabilities in Croatia.

Background

MHI started work in Croatia in 1996. We believed that the development of community-based services needed to occur at the same time as when the rest of society was being rebuilt after the war, or else people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities would be forgotten in institutions. MHI's conviction was that by supporting the development of community-based services we could demonstrate that confining people in long-stay institutions is unjustifiable. The idea was that by establishing a cost-efficient model where people could live good lives would lead the government to assume financial responsibility for the new services over time.

Social innovation

Community-based supported housing services are the precondition for deinstitutionalization. The services that were developed by the Association for Promoting Inclusion with MHI's support are

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The **Mental Health Initiative (MHI)** started when the country was rebuilding after the war in Yugoslavia. In 1996 MHI began exploratory work in Croatia to find partners willing to engage in deinstitutionalization and the development of community-based models. Such models were foreign in Croatia at the time: they simply did not exist, and rare were those personalities who could envision how people with disabilities could possibly live outside the institutions they were thought to 'need'. MHI met Professor Borka Teodorović at the University of Zagreb. She and like-minded colleagues dreamed of starting deinstitutionalization and advancing a reformed system – but who would ever support and pay for such work? Over the next 17 years, MHI would and did.

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

socially innovative: they have become part of the social welfare system, are recognized in legislation and are state financed.

Challenge

A major challenge to deinstitutionalization is that it produces profound change. When it comes to change, people tend to resist it, rather than make it happen or support it. The investment in the status quo becomes the justification for maintaining it, even if we know it was a mistake in the first place. And so it is with institutions: it is easier to maintain institutions than to develop community-based alternatives. The status quo is already in the budget, even when we know that alternatives are incomparably better, and financial analysis shows that they are cost-effective over time.

Results

With MHI's support, API disseminated the models it had established to spread the idea of inclusion. It identified and supported motivated local people and organisations to develop and provide community-based housing. It established 6 subsidiaries in Croatia, and supported 5 NGOs and several state institutions in creating community-based services. MHI provided financial support to many of these efforts, and today over 600 people have left residential institutions across Croatia and live with support in the community.

Success factors

MHI has learned that there is a right time for everything. As funders, we must be agile enough to stop doing some things and do more of others. We should not be wary of changing tactics and employing multiple tactics concurrently. One thing is certain: it is critical to have the right partners .

We look for brave people willing to engage in tasks that seem daunting, even impossible. And then we stand behind them. MHI's 17 years of investment seem to have paid off in what may have looked like a lost cause, underpinning an unprecedented commitment to open society values for people with disabilities in Croatia.

Scalability

While social welfare systems differ from country to country, the big ideas that this work operationalizes - the development of quality, people-centred community-based services and policy and legislation that is aligned to support the new system- could be adapted to other contexts outside Croatia. The outputs, such as training materials for staff, protocols for relocating residents and helping them adjust to the community, contracting with community-based service providers, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks can be used in other deinstitutionalization efforts.

> "A core value underlying all of MHI's work is the belief that all people, regardless of abilities or support needs, have the basic human right to live in the community with the liberty and choices all others citizens enjoy. The ratification of the UNCRPD across Europe, as well as by the European Union, has now both formalized and underpinned this value, which only strengthens MHI's commitment to deinstitutionalization and community living."
>
> **Ms. Judith Klein**
> **Director Mental Health Initiative (MHI),**
> **Open Society Foundation**

CONCLUSIONS
Five Conclusions and the Way Ahead

THE WORK OF EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS IN BREAKING DOWN GRANT-MAKING SILOS: THE DISABILITY EXAMPLE

The research of the European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR+D), the European Foundation Centre and Essl Foundation has analyzed more than 20 projects of European foundations working on disability issues, finally selecting 11 that have been thoroughly analyzed and described in this booklet. The 11 selected projects come from 11 different foundations, from 11 different countries, and have 11 very different approaches.

This is an impressive variety of activities. Still, from the perspectives of thousands of foundations in Europe, disability is not a mainstreamed issue and is not often considered as a priority in their programmes. Other areas of work, other disadvantaged groups are targeted much more often, like children and youth, education, migration, or the ageing population.

On the other hand, in many cases disability is regarded as a crosscutting issue by foundations that work on inclusive solutions for all, including persons with disabilities. From the Human Rights perspective, and from the view of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this is clearly the right approach. Crosscutting approaches support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society.

Crosscutting approaches and other common grounds

Foundations cannot be surrogates for welfare states, not even when austerity measures cut deeply into government budgets. Nevertheless, foundations work together with governments to improve the efficiency of government supported institutions, programs, legislations and services. As an effect, services for persons with disabilities are improved and more cost-efficient solutions are implemented.

For example, de-institutionalization is a challenge that many countries in Europe are facing: the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities clearly requires governments to close down or fundamentally change institutions for persons with disabilities, or – as a minimum requirement – persons with disabilities have to have the right to decide where they want to live. This requires the government to develop alternatives in the field of community living. Several foundations are taking the lead in changing the systems of institutionalization, closing down institutions and developing new forms of independent living, empowerment and support systems that are based on community living.

In almost every case study in this booklet, foundations support social innovation and social entrepreneurship. Moreover, most of their programs have the potential to grow, to be scaled up, or to be easily replicated by other organisations in other regions.

Most foundations, are thus fully aware that creating effective impact involves enabling and supporting the indirect impact of their projects. In some instances, it is the foundation itself that starts a project in one specific region, which proves to have the potential to be scaled or repeated in another region or market.

In other instances, the foundation develops role models that can and should be replicated by other foundations, NGOs, governments etc. Other foundations even act as catalysts and communicators of outstanding projects.

Foundations were, from a historic perspective, very often among those that supported paradigm shifts and other disruptive changes in society, like for example the "sexual revolution" of the 1950's and 1960's. Today, a lot remains to be done in this field, especially when it comes to issues related to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trasgender (LGBT) and discrimination. Foundations are vanguards in that field, tackling controversial issues like sexuality and disability.

More broadly, other foundations work on raising awareness for rights of people with disabilities that have been neglected so far or not implemented in practice, like making museums and arts accessible for all persons with disabilities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & LESSONS

From the webinar BREAKING DOWN GRANTMAKING SILOS: MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY AND PROMOTING SOCIAL INNOVATION
26 November 2014

"Follow the **Do not harm guiding principle**, especially when addressing mainstreaming disability. Even if you're not funding disability issues specifically. The challenge is to look at the programs and the CSR that you do run and to determine whether – even unintentionally – you are causing harm to people with disabilities by excluding them from the work that you are supporting. Furthermore, it is also critical to check if those programs that you are supporting don't further marginalise people with disabilities.

Intersectionality versus competing for scarce resources. People have multiple identities not a single identity. Being aware of intersectionality and how to support intersectionality makes it possible to combat different issues competing for resources, becoming a hierarchy of needs. The difficulty is not knowing what needs to be done or what needs to be changed but actually how you go from where you currently are to the way in which you need to be doing it. That transition process is the real challenge and where resources are required.

It is critical to provide multi-annual core funding; you can't do this in a year. It takes multiple years to achieve the outcomes, but you can achieve them and they can be sustainable.

Contribution versus Attribution. From a funder's perspective, the contribution that you make is far more important than having it attributed specifically to your individual contribution. This helps the approach towards partnership with other organisations/funders".

Brian Kearney Grieve
Programme Executive for Reconciliation and Human Rights Programme
at Atlantic Philanthropies

Five conclusions from the work of foundations

1 **Foundations develop innovative solutions and support social entrepreneurship**

Foundations, in almost every case study in this booklet, support social innovation and social entrepreneurship, working towards sustainable solutions.

EXAMPLES

- The **League of Historical and Accessible Cities** reaches out to all stakeholders in a historic city, to make main touristic attractions and streets fully accessible to all, encouraging city planners, shop owners, infrastructure providers etc. to jointly create accessible solutions.
- **Genio**, supported by **Atlantic Philanthropies,** bring government, private as well as philanthropic funders together to develop better ways to support disadvantaged people to live full lives in their communities.
- **The Zero Project** of the **Essl Foundation** is dedicated to researching and communicating Innovative Practices and Policies, being itself an innovative approach to involve a worldwide community of experts in the process.
- **Fundación ONCE**, with its **Never Give Up (NTRN)** project. NTRN is a social innovation initiative itself, tackling youth unemployment, coming from the disability sector, for youngsters with disabilities.

2 **Most foundations use crosscutting approaches that support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society**

Many foundations work on making society inclusive for all different groups of disadvantaged persons. As a consequence, disability is seen as a crosscutting issue leading to a fully inclusive approach for the different segments of society (for example, children, women and elderly).

EXAMPLES

- **Lumos Foundation** works on deinstitutionalization of all children in Central and Eastern Europe, including children with disabilities and on creating new support systems and community living programs for them.
- **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** supports innovative museum projects worldwide, that make art accessible to all, including the ageing population and children.

3 Many foundations tackle minorities' issues and even stigmatization

Some foundations are vanguards in that field of LGBT and disability, tackling controversial issues like sexuality and disability. Others target challenges of people with disabilities that are very often neglected.

EXAMPLES

- The project **Rights based struggle of Women with Disabilities** of **Sabanci Vakfi** in Turkey empowers women in taking an active role in solving their own problems, fighting against the double discrimination of women and persons with disabilities.
- **Papillons Blancs**, a project funded by **Fondation the France** in Dunquerque, supports persons with disabilities in leading a life full of emotions, affections and fulfilling sexual desires.
- **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation** from Portugal supports **ColorADD**, a universal graphic code whose mission is to enable the colorblind to identify colors.

4 Foundations work on the interfaces of society and act as catalyst between public sector, private sector and international organisations

Foundations work together with governments to improve the efficiency of government supported institutions, programs, legislations and services. As a result, services for persons with disabilities are improved and cost-efficient solutions are implemented.

EXAMPLES

- Community based living of people with disabilities can only be established by close cooperation of governments, civil society, in a process that is fully inclusive to persons with disabilities themselves. **Open Society Mental Health** Initiative has initiated that process in Croatia.
- **I CAN TOO** Foundation from Bulgaria has established modern therapeutic centers for children with autism in Plovdiv. Three other municipalities in Bulgaria have invited I CAN TOO to start similar centers in their cities.
- The **League of Historical and Accessible Cities** engage whole communities in historic cities, to make main touristic attractions and streets fully accessible to all.
- **Genio**, supported by **Atlantic Philanthropies**, has developed cooperative relationships between government and philanthropy.
- With its **Never Give Up (NTRN)** initiative, **Fundación ONCE**, contributes to the national efforts to combat one of the main challenges in Spain and Europe: unemployment of young people. The talent and determination of youngsters with disabilities are key factors on which this project is based on.

5 **Most foundations are creating role models, that are scalable and can easily be replicated and transferred to other countries and regions.**
Foundations support social innovation and social entrepreneurship and work for sustainable solutions. Even more, most of their programs have the potential to grow, to be scaled up, or to be easily replicated by other organisations in other regions.

EXAMPLES

- The **Open Society Mental Health** Initiative promotes community based alternatives to deinstitutionalization for people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, tackling a problem that exists in many countries, especially in the former communist countries in Europe. Starting in Croatia back in 1996, it has spread the idea of inclusion all over the region.
- The **Zero Project** of the **Essl Foundation** has created a worldwide network, that research and select innovative practices and policies and communicates the results to decision makers and opinion leaders worldwide.

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been ratified now by more than 150 countries in the world, and by almost every country of the European Union. The UN CRPD is a powerful driving force for the rights of persons with disabilities, for example requiring governments to make education inclusive, to create assistance services, structures for community living and employment in the open labour market.

Foundations will be needed more than ever to work on social innovations that support governments, NGOs, service providers and persons with disabilities themselves. Foundations have proven that they are capable and willing to take the helm in social innovation.

Finally, foundations are unique relay stations between governments, the private sector, civil society, and – most importantly – to people with disabilities themselves and are best positioned to initiate new solutions that are based on inclusion, participation and empowerment.

Michael Fembek
Program Manager and Head of the Zero Project, Essl Foundation

ABOUT THE CSR+D EUROPEAN NETWORK

With the financial endorsement of the European Social Fund, Fundación ONCE runs the **European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR+D)**, (www.csr-d.eu), with a time horizon set until 2015. The CSR+D Network operates in connection with major policy milestones in the field of Disability as well as CSR such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, the EU strategy 2011-2014 for CSR, and the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. The European Network for CSR+D is part of Enterprise 2020 initiative, promoted by CSR Europe and supported by the European Commission.

The CSR+D European Network has developed **Agora+D**, with the aim of sharing knowledge on CSR, Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship by collecting good practices including the disability approach among top performer organisations from both the public and private sectors.

ABOUT FUNDACIÓN ONCE

Fundación ONCE for the Cooperation and Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities (Fundación ONCE) has the main goal of promoting the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families, particularly focused on the areas of training, employment and universal accessibility of environments, products and services. Based in Spain, Fundación ONCE was founded in 1988, by agreement of the ONCE (National Organisation of the Spanish Blind) General Council, as an instrument of cooperation and solidarity from the Spanish blind towards other Disabilities.

ABOUT THE EFC

The **European Foundation Centre (EFC)** is an international association of foundations and corporate funders dedicated to creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations, documenting the foundation landscape, strengthening the infrastructure of the sector, and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond. Emphasising transparency and best practice, all members sign up to and uphold the EFC Principles of Good Practice.

ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

The **EFC's European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability** was launched in April 2009 to ensure a distinctive contribution from the foundation sector in promoting the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Consortium serves as a hub for knowledge exchange among EFC members working on disability issues and is the hub for EFC activity relating to human rights and disability.

Agora+d

Promoting Social Innovation

THE NEW PLATFORM PROMOTED BY THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR csr+d

European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

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