READJUSTING TO LIFE

2020-1-TR01-KA204-094182

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS IO1.A2

The Development of an Innovative Online Guide for Social Inclusion of People with Acquired Disabilities

Intellectual Output 1:/Activity 2 (IO1.A2): Focus group interviews

TÜRKİYE ULUSAL AJANSI
TURKISH NATIONAL AGENCY

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Submitted	Yes
Institution	*SEYDR*
Participant Organisation	*SEYDR*
Participants	15 disabled persons
The Result of the Interview (Max 250 Words)	In the interview, it was revealed that the most difficult thing for disabled people to return to society is the difficulty in accessing existing opportunities. The inability of local governments to access detailed information about their services, the inaccessibility of services to rural areas, and the fact that people with disabilities have to do a lot of paperwork in order to benefit from many opportunities make their lives very difficult. They think it would be very beneficial to have a platform that can guide them in their first year. The lack of coordination between institutions also causes a lack of information among the disabled. Only 4 of the interviewed disabled people (living in the city and having a relatively better education and financial situation) knew about local services. Educational opportunities are very limited in rural areas and the resources that people with disabilities can access for their education are limited. There is hardly any (only 1 person) job opportunity in private institutions, within the quota required by the state, and employment in government institutions is sufficient.
Comments	N/A

Submitted	Yes
Institution	CIVIC
Participant Organisation	CIVIC
Participants	Disabled person or relative of a disabled person A total of 8 people (people with disabilities and family members) participated in the interviews.
The Result of the Interview (Max 250 Words)	According to the participants, people with disabilities are not getting all the support they need. Especially older participants did not get much support when they were younger. One of the participants did not graduate high school due to the lack of support something that has impacted her career. There are a lot of organisations and charities in the UK that help people with disabilities. However, that is still not enough. When it comes to official institutions, participants do get some support, such as free hearing aids. Some people get help from support workers provided by charities that come to their homes and help them with day-to-day things. However, some participants believe that the institutions and the charities do not cooperate affectively between them. In Edinburgh, a local charity, Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) is helping people with disabilities providing services such as living support, useful information, self management guidance, peer support and learning workshops and events. Regarding adapting to their new situation, participants said that it was a challenging and overwhelming process. However, after some time that have been able to adapt and live happy and full lives. What has helped them a lot was the support of their loved ones that were there for them. 2 of the participants pointed out that they would need more support and understanding at their work from their colleagues and employers. Participants mentioned that one of the things they need is for others to be patient with them and to not exclude them because of their disability.
Comments	N/A

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Submitted	Yes
Institution	SEADDER
Participant Organisation	SEADDER
Participants	10 disabled persons, 5 relatives of a disabled persons
The Result of the Interview (Max 250 Words)	These individuals are supported in terms of hospital expenses during the treatment process. However, we see that there is no information on social rights and services provided to the disabled. (2 people were only informed about health services).There is a lack of coordination between institutions serving the disabled.There are enough educational opportunities for school-age students. But not enough for adults.Psychological support is very important but not sufficient. Many people with disabilities are able to achieve some gains with their families and individual efforts.Employment is provided in state institutions, but not enough in private institutions.
Comments	There is a need for a mapping of what services people with disabilities will receive and from where.Villages for the disabled (for educational and holiday purposes) are built to enable them to live together, socialize, have fun, etc. meeting your needs.- Their pride should not be hurt while helping the disabled.- The personnel with whom the disabled individual will work should be trained on how to communicate and work.- Communication by focusing on their personality, not their disability.- Making physical arrangements (elevators, ramps, toilets for the disabled, etc.) of public and private institutions/organizations regarding the access of the disabled,- Not expecting the disabled person to be more productive than they can do, not mobbing the disabled person when they can't,- Establishment of an online platform where disabled people can obtain information throughout the country they are in.

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Submitted	Yes
Institution	IASIS NGO - RnD
Participant Organisation	IASIS
Participants	12 disabled persons and 3 relatives of disabled person
The Result of the Interview (Max 250 Words)	Twelve people with acquired disabilities and three family members took part into the interviews (65%) and focus groups (35%). According to the results, 85% of them have never been informed from officials about the social rights can assert or services that can use. It was clear that the method of deriving information was through (i) personal research (ii) peers and communities (iii) private institutions and counsellors. Those who got aware about their rights were informed by public doctors during the medical diagnosis.The most significant changes occurred after the acquirement of the disability, that can be translated as needs, are the lack of gross and fine motor skills, inability of efficient transportation, lack of autonomy, social stigma and economic obstacles that emerged as treatments and equipment require a great budget. Even though the State tries to cover those needs by providing disability allowances and vouchers for the purchase of equipment (e.g. wheelchair) those are not enough as they cover a small part of the expenses. Having said that, all interviewees agreed that current institutions and services require reorganization, State aids and harmony among public services. Additionally, infrastructures shall be more disability-friendly as current ones have been designed based on how able-bodied persons interpret the needs of disabled (i.e. existing ramps are not effective). Finally, all participants stated they have adapted to the new way of living due to (i) family support and (ii) peer support. Family members have taken the role of the caregiver while disability communities provide psychological support .
Comments	N/A

Submitted	Yes
Institution	Fams Cocemfe Sevılla, Alma Sevılla, Apı Association, Caura Assocıatıon, Asedepo, University Of Monpellier (Erasmus+ Student),
Participant Organisation	Fams Cocemfe
Participants	12 Disabled Persons And 3 Relatives Of Disabled Person
The Result of the Interview (Max 250 Words)	All participants communicated that main needs they face after they acquired their disabilities were: - Lack of information on how to adapt to their new situation, this adaptation process was very difficult due to this lack of information. - Psychological support to cope with the situation. - Rehabilitation and sports activities. - Social care. - Legal support. - Accessibility: - Information on leisure activities and other social activities. - Information on new employment opportunities Regional services are good but not efficient and they need to improve much more. For example, the connections between public services and organisations at the private level often are not fluent and updated. For example, there are many accessibility problems to public transport outside of urban areas. It is important that person with an acquired disability could be mentors of other persons with disabilities in similar situation. This is the best

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	resource, but it is important third sector for social action entities too. These entities offer people with acquired disabilities: • Their rights defence • Social networks • Psychological and emotional support for them and their families • Accessibility to leisure and free time activities • Access to information on social services, subsidies, health services • Exchange of best practices from other persons with acquired disabilities • Legal advice • Fluent contact with administrations So these associations or third sector entities or associations of persons with disabilities become the first resources these people turn to in search of support and information after the period of hospitalisation
Comments	N/A

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SHORT NOTES FROM THE INTERVIEWS

Almost all participants stated they have adapted to the new way of living with the help of (i) family support and (ii) peer support. Family members have taken the role of the caregiver while disability communities provide psychological support. In the interviews, it was revealed that the most difficult thing for disabled people to return to society is the difficulty in accessing existing opportunities.

All the participants in the focus groups highlighted that mapping of services for people with disabilities is needed. Specially, this mapping should include those available in rural areas. Persons with disabilities living in rural areas have less access and information of these resources. So, guide will be created within Readjusting to Life project, participants think it is an excellent tool for people who acquired disabilities recently. Also they indicated this guide should be connected with public health and social services. Information on the guide should be provided in these public institutions, mainly at hospitals.

Also, they commented the guide should introduce the resources description in a easy-to-read format, in order to make easier the access to information.

PHOTOS FROM INTERVIEWS