



Resolution on improving the inclusion of organisations of persons with psychosocial disabilities and users and survivors of psychiatry within EDF membership

Adopted at EDF Board meeting on 19th February 2017 in Malta

Recalling the decision of the Board of the European Disability Forum (EDF) in November 2014 to develop a mapping exercise on the participation of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the national review processes before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

Acknowledging the results of this mapping exercise conducted amongst EDF members in July 2015 to assess to what extent (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry, persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organisations are involved in the membership and the work of EDF members, both at national and European level;

Considering the foreseen activity in EDF Work Plan of 2016 to take actions to improve the inclusion of organisations persons with psychosocial disability and users and survivors of psychiatry within EDF membership through recommendations to membership from the Board;

Highlighting the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) on the recognition of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities and users and survivors of psychiatry in the CRPD;

Keeping in mind EDF's philosophy that organisations of people with psychosocial disabilities should be full and equal members in the European disability movement, including in the national level, in compliance with the CRPD;

Taking note of the fact that the active participation and membership of these organisations in disability organisations is hindered by a set of factors and that they are not fully included in all EDF membership at both national and European level;

Therefore, EDF Board recommends to all EDF members to include (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organizations as full-members in their organisation. Full membership guarantees them equal rights as to any other members of the organisation: access to its governing bodies according to the statutes of the organisation, participation in the working structures and activities, including the CRPD Committee review process



The following steps should be taken by EDF members:

- Taking measures to include (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organizations as full members in EDF membership at national and European level;
- Taking action to ensure that (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organizations as full members of EDF members have access to its board and other governing structures according to the statutes, and decision making processes;
- Including the perspective of (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organizations in EDF members' work, such as advocacy, raising awareness and communication activities on legal capacity, prohibition of and alternatives for forced treatment and detention, self-determination and supported decision making, deinstitutionalization, inclusive mental health;
- Including (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities in EDF members' mainstream capacity building activities, such as trainings on CRPD or non-discrimination; and organising trainings, empowerment seminars and conferences especially for (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- Involving (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organization in the drafting of the alternative report and the review process at national and UN level;
- Supporting the foundation of councils for (ex-)users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities, via dissemination of information, lobbying and advocacy, empowerment seminars, networking, nomination for participation processes, and by supporting and facilitating the bureaucratic work for legally establishing a council.
- Include (ex-) users and survivors of psychiatry and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities in measures of development, especially social economy and social entrepreneurship.