

More involvement in policy-making and resources needed for Persons with Disabilities: the results of the In Touch's research

The research done by the partners of the In Touch project has come to an end, presenting the landscape regarding the work and services available for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Italy, Malta, and Montenegro.

The key conclusions of the research are the following:

- There is an increasing perceived need by PWDs communities to feel more integrated into the decision-making processes at the local and national levels, especially when it's closely related to the world of disabilities and their rights
- Associations and NGOs play a crucial role in the advocacy for the enforcement of their rights and in the creation of an accessible and inclusive social environment
- Despite the efforts of different national and international entities in the pursuit of social integration of PWDs, the local actions, even if virtuous, fail to properly involve some of the stakeholders, especially decision-makers
- Equity of access to the different areas of life, such as education, employment, and hobbies, has greatly improved in the past decade but is still nowhere close to being properly achieved
- The resources provided to promote and develop inclusive activities are mostly insufficient, especially in peripheral and rural realities, where access to funding opportunities is more difficult
- Educators, from both formal and non-formal education, require reliable resources for information and training that can support them in their work with PWDs
- Approaches and methodologies that stem from the non-formal education world, such as multi-disciplinary workshops and focus groups, are perceived by participants and professionals as more beneficial to the inclusion of PWDs

In conclusion, the involvement of PWDs has improved, and notable progress in achieving equity of access across various life domains, including education, employment, social interactions, and hobbies can be recorded, but there is still a long way to go. Associations and non-governmental organizations play a decisive role in advocating for the enforcement of PWDs' rights and contribute significantly to the establishment of an accessible and inclusive social and cultural framework, while policy-makers are difficult to involve and activate. Moreover, additional resources for people involved in working with PWDs are needed.

All the updates and further communications on the project can be found on the [website](#) and the social media accounts of the project ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)). For any requirements, send an email to intoucherasmus@gmail.com.



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